

THE FRANK GASPARRO PAPERS

BOX XVII

AMERICAN

NUMISMATIC

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FRANK GASPARRO PAPERS

- Kennedy Half Dollar-Coin Letters
- Reductions
- Hamilton Mint
- Gold
- Mint Plans
- Drawings (3)

Gasparro Papers
Box 17

Kennedy Half dollar - Coin Letters





TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

A HISTORY OF THE SILVER DOLLAR

The silver dollar, not as we know it today, but as its progenitor, came prominently to the fore in the days of the American Revolution.

The dollar, or "thaler" (which did not originate with the Spaniards), is short for the "Joachimsthaler" of Joachimsthal, a mining town in the Joachims Valley in Bohemia, where the coins were first struck in the sixteenth century.

On the second day of the Second Continental Congress, May 11, 1775, Mr. John Hancock of Massachusetts placed before that body a plan to raise funds for support of our forces in the fight for freedom, involving the use of Spanish milled silver dollars for payments of notes to be issued by the Congress.

The Journal of the Continental Congress on June 22, 1775, records a "resolve" that a sum not exceeding two millions of Spanish milled dollars be emitted by the Congress in bills of credit for the defense of America.

At the time there were many different kinds of colonial shillings in circulation, all with different values in terms of the English shilling. However, the Spanish silver dollar, which came in by trade across the frontier from Louisiana, which Spain later ceded to France, was the principal coin of commerce. It contained 374 7/8 grains of silver.

A committee of seven was appointed by the Continental Congress on April 19, 1776 to examine and ascertain the value of the species of gold and silver coins then current in the colonies and to determine the proportions "they ought to bear to Spanish milled dollars." This committee filed such a report on September 2, 1776. Included in the report are references to such denominations as English and French guineas, Johannes and half Johannes, Spanish and French pistole, doubloons, English and French crowns, English shillings, and the then popular Spanish milled dollars, all of which served as a medium of exchange in the colonies.

A History of the Silver Dollar

Thomas Jefferson recommended on September 2, 1776, to the Continental Congress, that the United States adopt the silver "Spanish Milled Dollar" called "Pillar Pieces of Eight", as our monetary unit of value, since daily trade was transacted in that coin.

In his notes on the subject, Thomas Jefferson expressed the opinion that in fixing the unit of money the following circumstances were of principal importance:

1. That it be of a convenient size to be applied as a measure to the common money transactions of life.
2. That its parts and multiples be in easy proportion to each other so as to facilitate the Money Arithmetic.
3. That the Unit and its parts or divisions be so nearly of the value of some of the known coins so that they may be of easy adoption for the people.

Mr. Jefferson concluded the Spanish dollar seemed to fulfill all these conditions.

The Superintendent of Finance in the Continental Congress, Robert Morris, wrote in 1777: "The various coins which have circulated in America have undergone different changes in their value, so that there is hardly any which can be considered as a general standard, unless it be Spanish dollars. These pass in Georgia at five shillings, in North Carolina and New York at eight shillings, in Virginia and the four Eastern States at six shillings, and in all the other States except South Carolina at seven shillings and sixpence, and in South Carolina at thirty-two shillings and sixpence."

The dollar was established as the ideal money unit of the United States of America by the Continental Congress, on July 6, 1785. On the eighth of August 1786, it was enacted that the standard for coinage of gold and of silver should be eleven parts fine and one part alloy, and that the money unit or dollar should contain 375-64/100 grains of fine silver.

The Mint Act of April 2, 1792:

1. Authorized coinage of the silver dollar (of the value of Spanish milled dollar) against the deposit of silver and fixed its weight at 371-4/16 grains of pure silver or 416 grains of standard silver;
2. fixed the standard for silver coins as 1485/1664 (.8924) fine;
3. fixed the coinage ratio of gold and silver as 1 to 15;
4. provided for free coinage; and
5. declared silver dollars (and all other coins authorized) lawful tender.

The Act of 1792, in effect, reduced the silver content 1-1/7 percent from the dollar established in 1786.

Coinage of silver dollars commenced in 1794. In his report of October 28, 1794 to the Congress, the first Director of the Mint, David Rittenhouse, reported "A beginning has been made in coining the precious metals * * * * A large parcel of blank dollars is ready for coining, waiting for a more powerful press to be finished, in order to complete them for currency."

From 1794 until 1805, the Mint at Philadelphia produced 1,439,517 silver dollars. During this period, many of these coins were exported to Mexico and the West Indies where they found acceptance in place of Spanish milled dollars. This left the worn and clipped Spanish coins as the chief circulating medium in the United States.

While Secretary of State, Madison wrote Mint Director Robert Patterson on May 1, 1806:

"In consequence of a representation from the director of the Bank of the United States that considerable purchases have been made of dollars coined at the Mint for the purpose of exporting them, and as it is probable further purchases



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINTTHE KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY was inaugurated President of the United States January 20, 1961, and served not quite three full years of his term of office. His untimely death on November 22, 1963, resulted in such an outpouring of public sentiment that President Johnson, on December 10, 1963, sent to the Congress legislation authorizing the Treasury Department to mint new 50-cent pieces bearing the likeness of his predecessor.

Legislative authority is necessary to change a coin design which has not been in effect for the statutory 25-year period. Congress gave its overwhelming approval to the President's recommendation and on December 30, 1963, Public Law No. 88-256 was enacted directing the Mint to proceed with the production of the new design. The first of the John F. Kennedy half dollars for general circulation purposes were struck at the Mints in Philadelphia and Denver on February 11, 1964. The half dollar was selected because this would add another Presidential portrait to a coin of regular issue.

In the center of the obverse, or face of the coin, is a strong but simple bust of the late President. Above, and around the border is the word LIBERTY. Just below the bust is the motto IN GOD WE TRUST, which appears on all United States coins of current issue. The date is at the bottom of the coin, around the border.

The Presidential Coat of Arms forms the motif for the reverse, or back of the coin. It is the central part of the Presidential Seal, the only difference being that the words SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES have been removed and in their place are inscriptions required by law to appear on all United States coins: the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, above, around the border, and the denomination, HALF DOLLAR, around the bottom border. Other requirements already incorporated in the Coat of Arms are the eagle, and E PLURIBUS UNUM, which appears on the ribbon above the eagle's head.

The Kennedy coin had its beginnings when official sculptors were engaged in preparing a new medal for the historic series of Presidential pieces manufactured in bronze for sale to the public. Gilroy Roberts, nationally known Chief Sculptor of the United States Mint, and a member of the Philadelphia staff for many years, worked on the likeness of the President, studying first many photographs to capture the character and personality of his subject. He then selected a single portrait and commenced placing his concept in a preliminary model. During the final stages, Mr. Roberts called at The White House and studied the President at work, at which time he completed the model.

After the President's death, when the decision was reached to honor him on a United States coin, the Roberts portrait was adapted from the medal, lowered in relief and simplified for use on the smaller scale necessary for a coin.

Frank Gasparro, also a veteran member of the Philadelphia staff, executed the reverse of the Presidential medal. The Coat of Arms of the President of the United States, an integral part of this design, was chosen as the companion side for the half dollar. Gasparro also designed the Lincoln Memorial side of the current cent.

The Coat of Arms depicts the American Eagle holding in its right talon an olive branch of peace, and in the left talon, arrows for defense. Symbolism derived from the Thirteen Original States governs the number of olive leaves, berries, arrows, stars and cloud puffs. The upper part of the flag or shield upon the breast of the eagle represents the Congress binding the Colonies into an entity. The vertical stripes complete the motif of the Flag of the United States. Each State of the Nation is represented in the 50-star amulet which rings the

whole. The theme of the device is punctuated by the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM, which appears on the ribbon above the eagle's head. Translated "One out of Many," it refers to the unity of the States and the strength of our Nation.

The Presidential Seal originated during the Administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes, apparently as a rendering of the Great Seal of the United States. There was no known basis in law for the Coat of Arms and the Seal which had been used by Presidents since 1880 and which was reproduced on the Presidential Flag. President Harry S. Truman, when he signed the Executive Order of October 25, 1945, containing the official description, established for the first time a legal definition of the President's Coat of Arms and his Seal. According to heraldic custom, the eagle on a Coat of Arms, unless otherwise specified in the heraldic description, is always made to face to its own right. There is no explanation for the eagle facing to its own left in the case of the President's Coat of Arms. To conform to heraldic custom, and since there was no authority other than usage for the former Presidential Coat of Arms, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had asked that it be redesigned. The designs reached Washington after the President's death.

In the new Coat of Arms, Seal and Flag, the eagle not only faces to its right -- the direction of honor -- but also toward the olive branches of peace which it holds in its right talon. Formerly, the eagle faced toward the arrows in its left talon -- arrows, symbolic of war.

The Kennedy half dollar is not a commemorative coin. Such commemorative coins are authorized by special acts of Congress, manufactured in limited quantities and sold at a profit by the private organizations sponsoring the issues. The Kennedy coin is being made for regular distribution and the design will remain in effect for 25 years, as prescribed by law, unless the Congress authorizes a change in the interim. It takes the place of the Franklin design, which first appeared in 1948.

The new half dollar coins will be released by the Mints in the usual manner, directly to the Federal Reserve banks and branches for simultaneous distribution through the commercial banking system. Thus they will be available through local sources and persons desiring specimens should apply to their own banks. Individual specimens will not be sold by the Mints.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25

THE USE OF E PLURIBUS UNUM
ON UNITED STATES COINAGE

E PLURIBUS UNUM was first used on our coinage in 1795, when the reverse of the half eagle (\$5 gold piece) presented the main features of the Great Seal, on the scroll of which this inscription belongs. The same device was placed on certain of the silver coins in 1798, and so the motto was soon found on all the coins in the precious metals. In 1834, it was dropped from most of the gold coins to mark the change in the standard fineness of the coins. In 1837 it was dropped from the silver coins, marking the era of the Revised Mint Code.

The Act of February 12, 1873* made this inscription a requirement of law upon the coins of the United States. A search will reveal, however, that it does not appear on all coins struck after 1873, and that not until much later were the provisions of this Act followed in their entirety. From facts contained in Mint records it would appear that officials did not consider the provisions of the law mandatory, but rather, discretionary. The motto does appear on all coins currently being manufactured.

The motto as it appears on U. S. coins means "One Out of Many," and doubtless has reference to the unity of the early States. It is said that one Colonel Reed of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, was instrumental in having it placed on the coins.

-00o-

*Title 31 United States Code, Section 324.

December 18, 1963

KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

Description --

Obverse - Portrait of John F. Kennedy

Above: Around border the inscription "LIBERTY"

Beneath the portrait "IN GOD WE TRUST" and the date (1964)

Designer and sculptor: Gilroy Roberts

Reverse - An adaptation of the Presidential Seal

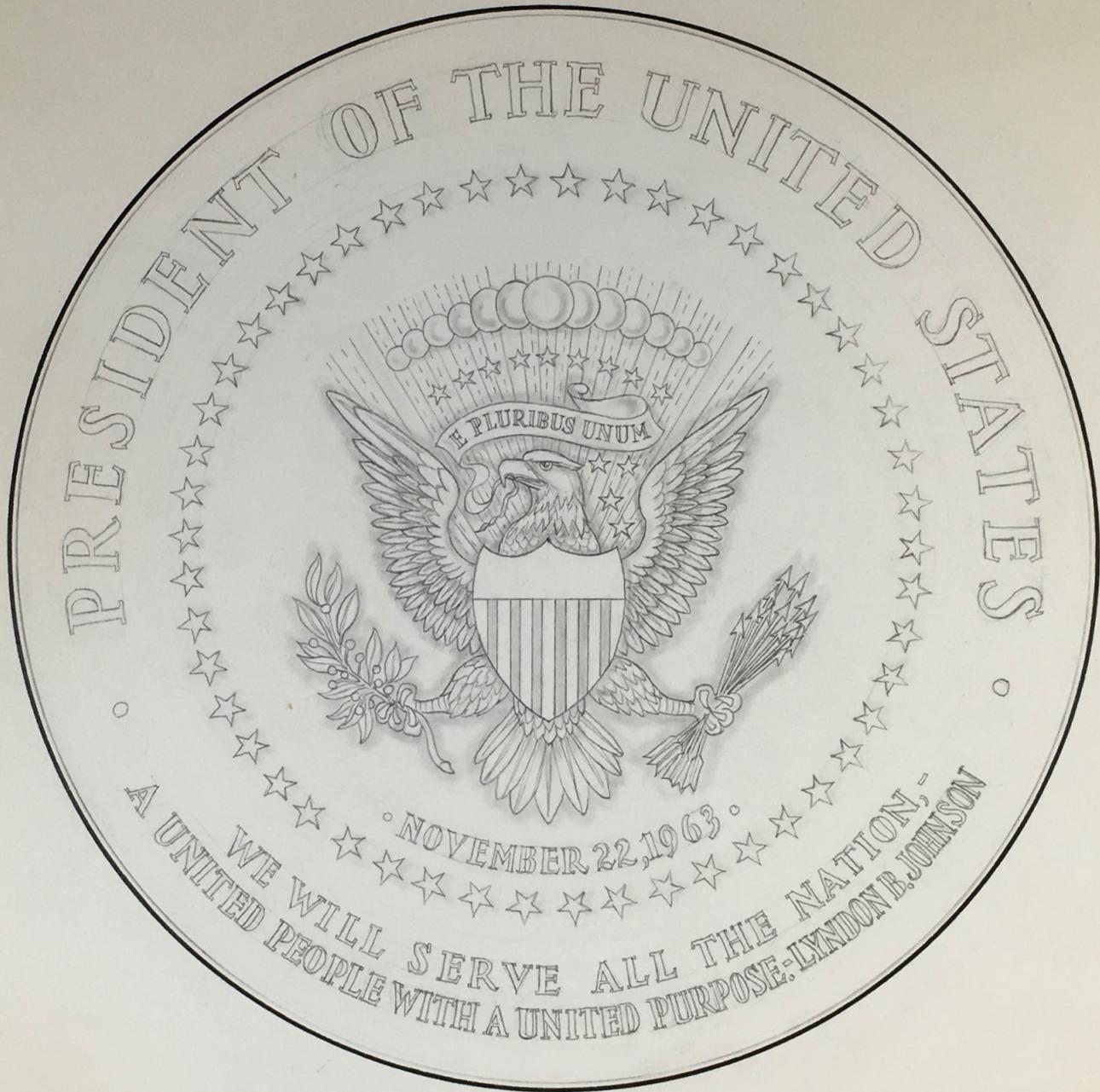
Inscription: Above - "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

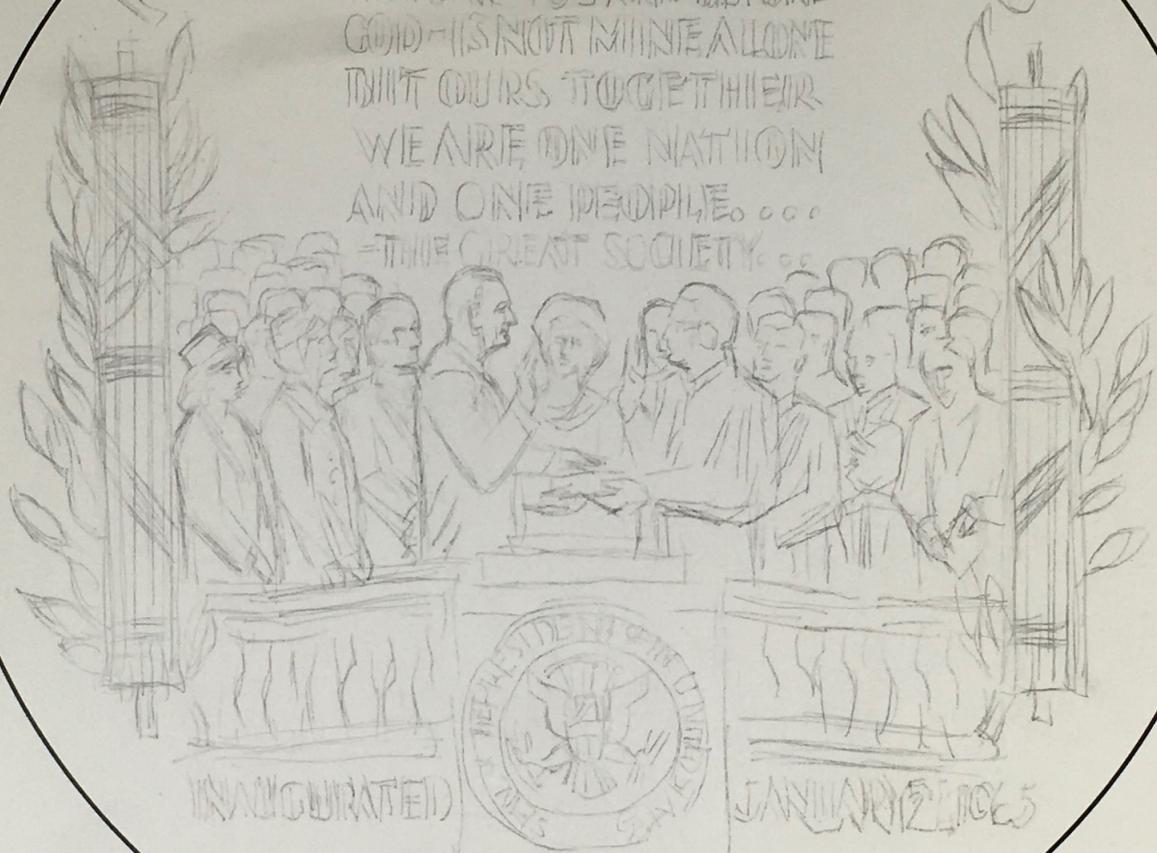
Ribbon above eagle head: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"

Below: "HALF DOLLAR"

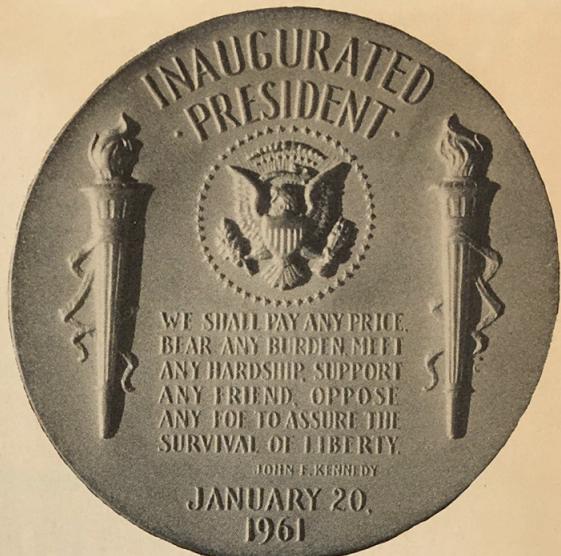
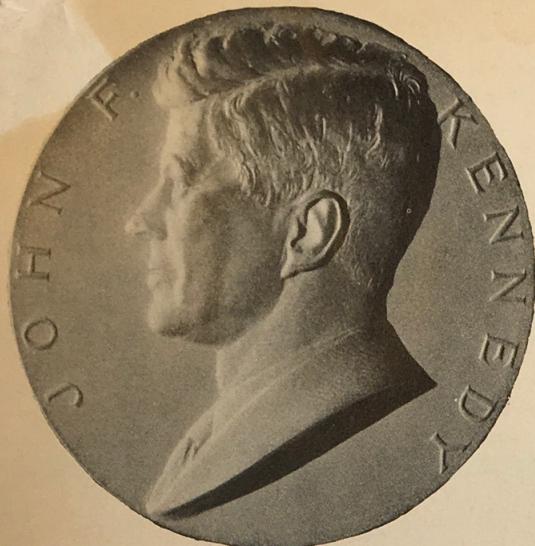
Designer and sculptor: Frank Gasparro







Lyndon B. Johnson



Above are obverse and reverse of the medal struck by the U. S. Mint. The ribbon in the Eagle's beak in the presidential Seal has the words, *E Pluribus Unum*, required to be on all our coinage.

A coin is a living reminder of what is sometimes mistakenly called the dead past. It is the concrete link between reality and the nebulous storybook existence of long-gone heroes and the fantastic worlds they lived in.

For one of the best ways man has dreamed up for memorializing people and events—next to painting on cave walls—is the engraver's art practiced on coins and medals.

We have records of monuments erected to memorialize Roman wars. We have portraits of Greek gods, Roman and Byzantine emperors, even Cleopatra—all on coins. Medals from Medieval Europe demonstrate the finest of the engraver's art as they record the likenesses of notables for the ages.

RECENT COINAGE

In the United States these ancient arts have reappeared only fairly recently, particularly on our coinage.

Although George Washington's portrait is seen on some early maver-

ick coins, it wasn't until 1909 that an American president was honored by having his likeness placed on a government-recognized coin. That was the first year of the Lincoln cent.

Since 1909, of course, other great Americans have been immortalized on our coinage. George Washington gained official recognition on the quarter dollar in 1932, Thomas Jefferson on the five-cent piece in 1938. Franklin Roosevelt appeared on the dime in 1946 and Benjamin Franklin has adorned the half dollar since 1948.

KENNEDY ENSHRINED

But never has an American been honored so shortly after his death as has the late President John F. Kennedy. During the short, hectic weeks following his assassination, thousands of Americans wrote to Congressmen, Senators and members of the government voicing the common sentiment that this young man who gave so much should be enshrined immediately before his countrymen in such a way that he will never be forgotten.

Every one of our coins was suggested as appropriate for the purpose. One writer went so far as to say that Abraham Lincoln, if appraised of the situation, would gladly relinquish his cherished spot on the humble one-cent piece.

Resolutions and bills were intro-

duced in both House and Senate to the effect that President Kennedy's portrait should appear on the quarter, dime, nickel, half-dollar and the silver dollar which is due to reappear in 1964 for the first time since 1935.

However, in early December President Johnson requested Congress to pass legislation which would place President Kennedy's portrait on the half dollar. And after that there was no need for speculation about which coin it would be.

DIES AUTHORIZED

The bill was passed on December 18 and the Mint was authorized to go ahead with the making of dies.

But the Mint had not waited for the passage of the bill and as early as the first week in December Chief Engraver Roberts began work on half-dollar dies. By December 12 the reverse die was in the final stages, trial pieces were struck and work was progressing rapidly on the obverse in order to meet President Johnson's requested first of the year release date.

The new President asked that the obverse carry the portrait used on the Mint medal, the medal designed and struck at the Philadelphia Mint for each new president.

For the reverse of the coin the presidential motif was to be continued with the presidential seal

which also appears on the reverse of the Mint medal.

This coin will replace the Benjamin Franklin half dollar now in circulation. And this is the one detail in the production of the new coin which makes collectors unhappy. They wish it were a commemorative coin.

For, although the half dollar will, in a real sense, commemorate the life and untimely death of President Kennedy, to a collector a commemorative coin is one which has only limited production, which because of its relative scarcity is more desirable as a collector's item and

which will appreciate much more rapidly as an investment.

The new coins will be released through regular channels—the Federal Reserve Banks—and will be available sometime early in 1964 through local banks.

Although the U.S. half dollar is the most important recognition of the President's death, there are a great many other numismatic items collectors are purchasing during the current wave of interest.

MANY ORDERS

The Philadelphia Mint has issued a statement that its retail sales outlet has been deluged by orders

for the large bronze medal after whose designs the new coin has been patterned.

The obverse of this medal carries President Kennedy's portrait and his name. The reverse bears the presidential seal above an excerpt from a Kennedy speech: "We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival of liberty."

On either side of the inscription is a flaming torch.

These medals are three inches in diameter, weigh almost half a pound and are available for \$3 from the Philadelphia Mint.

LINCOLN CENTS

| DATE & MINT | FAIR- ABT. | GOOD | V.G. | FINE | V.F. |
|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1909-VDB | .50 | .70 | .80 | .95 | 1.10 |
| 1909-S V.D.B. | — | 127.50 | 145.00 | 165.00 | 195.00 |
| 1909-S | — | 26.50 | 31.00 | 36.00 | 43.00 |
| 1910-S | 2.65 | 3.15 | 3.75 | 4.50 | 6.50 |
| 1911-D | .85 | 1.45 | 2.00 | 3.75 | 6.25 |
| 1911-S | 6.75 | 9.00 | 11.50 | 12.50 | 15.00 |
| 1912-D | .55 | 1.45 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 8.25 |
| 1912-S | 3.50 | 4.50 | 5.00 | 6.50 | 9.50 |
| 1913-D | .50 | .80 | 1.10 | 2.50 | 3.95 |
| 1913-S | 2.40 | 3.25 | 3.75 | 4.75 | 6.00 |
| 1914-D | 30.00 | 39.50 | 47.50 | 67.50 | 97.50 |
| 1914-S | 3.50 | 4.50 | 5.25 | 6.75 | 9.00 |
| 1915 | .35 | .50 | .75 | 4.50 | 7.50 |
| 1915-D | .30 | .40 | .75 | 1.35 | 2.50 |
| 1915-S | — | 3.60 | 4.25 | 5.00 | 6.50 |
| 1916-S | .30 | .45 | .55 | 1.00 | 1.75 |
| 1921-S | .50 | .75 | 1.00 | 1.50 | 4.50 |
| 1922 Plain | WTD | WTD | WTD | WTD | WTD |
| 1922-D | 2.65 | 3.25 | 3.75 | 6.00 | 8.50 |
| 1923-S | .75 | 1.25 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 5.75 |
| 1924-D | 9.00 | 12.50 | 14.50 | 17.50 | 25.00 |
| 1924-S | .40 | .60 | .75 | 1.50 | 3.00 |

LINCOLN CENTS

| DATE & MINT | FAIR- ABT. | GOOD | V.G. | FINE | V.F. |
|--|---------------|------|------|------|--------|
| 1926-S | — | — | — | 3.75 | 4.50 |
| 1927-S | — | — | — | .25 | .35 |
| 1928-S | — | — | — | .20 | .25 |
| 1931-D | — | — | — | .25 | .40 |
| 1931-S | — | — | — | 3.50 | 4.50 |
| 1932-D | — | — | — | .60 | .90 |
| 1932-S | — | — | — | .40 | .65 |
| 1933-D | — | — | — | .40 | .60 |
| 1933-S | — | — | — | 2.85 | 3.50 |
| 1934-D | — | — | — | .30 | .35 |
| 1934-S | — | — | — | — | .45 |
| 1938-D | — | — | — | — | .55 |
| 1939-D | — | — | — | .50 | .55 |
| 1943-S | — | — | — | .20 | .25 |
| 1949-S | — | — | — | .20 | .25 |
| 1954-S | — | — | — | — | .20 |
| 1955-S | — | — | — | — | .35 |
| 1955 Double Strike only | — | — | — | — | 155.00 |
| 1960 Small Date—Available in Only Uncirculated at 9.00 each. | — | — | — | — | 175.00 |
| 1969 to 1939 Not listed above | — | — | — | .20 | .25 |
| 1940 to 1963 Not listed above | — | — | — | .10 | .15 |

INDIAN CENTS — FLYING EAGLES — INDIAN CENTS

| YEAR | FAIR | GOOD | V.G. | FINE | YEAR | FAIR | GOOD | V.G. | FINE |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|------|-------|--------|--------|
| 1857 | 2.75 | 3.50 | 4.25 | 6.95 | 1875 | — | 2.50 | 3.75 | 7.50 |
| 1858 Small Letters | 3.25 | 4.25 | 5.00 | 8.50 | 1876 | — | 4.75 | 7.00 | 10.00 |
| 1858 Large Letters | 3.25 | 4.50 | 5.50 | 8.75 | 1877 | — | 85.00 | 110.00 | 137.50 |
| 1859 | 1.40 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 6.75 | 1878 | — | 4.75 | 7.00 | 12.00 |
| 1860 | 1.40 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 7.00 | 1879 | — | — | 2.00 | 3.00 |
| 1861 | 3.95 | 6.50 | 8.00 | 12.50 | 1880 to 1883 | — | .75 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| 1862 | — | 1.75 | 2.50 | 3.95 | 1884 | — | 1.00 | 1.75 | 3.00 |
| 1863 | 1.00 | 1.50 | 2.00 | 3.50 | 1885 | — | 2.00 | 3.50 | 5.50 |
| 1864 Copper Nickel | 3.50 | 5.00 | 6.50 | 11.00 | 1886 | — | 1.00 | 1.75 | 3.00 |
| 1864 Bronze | 1.25 | 2.50 | 3.50 | — | 1887 to 1891 | — | .25 | .50 | 1.00 |
| 1864-L | 9.00 | 14.50 | 25.00 | 55.00 | 1892 | — | .45 | .70 | 1.15 |
| 1865 | 1.25 | 1.75 | 2.75 | 7.00 | 1893 | — | .35 | .50 | 1.00 |
| 1866 | 5.75 | 9.00 | 13.50 | 26.00 | 1894 | — | .85 | 1.50 | 2.75 |
| 1867 | 4.95 | 8.00 | 13.50 | 26.00 | 1895 | — | .50 | .95 | 1.50 |
| 1868 | 4.95 | 8.00 | 12.50 | 24.50 | 1896 | — | .50 | .95 | 1.50 |
| 1869 | 8.50 | 15.00 | 25.00 | 50.00 | 1897 to 1900 | — | .45 | .75 | 1.25 |
| 1870 | 6.95 | 13.50 | 20.00 | 40.00 | 1901 to 1907 | — | .30 | .40 | .75 |
| 1871 | 9.75 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 49.50 | 1908 | — | .40 | .75 | 1.50 |
| 1872 | 10.50 | 22.50 | 35.00 | 65.00 | 1908-S | — | 15.75 | 24.50 | 29.50 |
| 1873 | 3.00 | 4.50 | 8.50 | 15.00 | 1909 | — | .80 | 1.00 | 1.50 |
| 1874 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 7.50 | 13.50 | 1909-S | — | 85.00 | 100.00 | 110.00 |

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- COPY -

STATEN ISLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Business Office

July 23, 1969

Hon. Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In a newspaper article last week I noted that a bill had been introduced in Congress proposing that General Eisenhower's likeness supplant George Washington's profile on U.S. 25¢ pieces... In reading the article, I became angry at myself for having failed to address a proposal to you earlier in a similar, but alternate, vein on the subject of currency design changes.

You are no doubt aware of a fact that I only recently learned as the result of a visit to the U.S. Mint in San Francisco - legislative authority is not necessary to change a coin design which has been in effect for the statutory 25-year period; a Presidential recommendation suffices to effect such a change. The designs for the penny (obverse side), nickel and quarter thus qualify for such a recommendation. I think you might agree that an Eisenhower design could be construed as politically-motivated by narrow minds no matter how much you and I and millions of Americans might heartily endorse such a suitable honor. As an alternate suggestion, for any denomination of our currency - but most logically the penny, I am enclosing a clipping from the May issue of the American Legion Magazine which shows a design for a Winchester commemorative firearm medallion - a profile of a great President who happens to be a Republican but who was also a President of all the people.

On Mt. Rushmore, Presidents Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Wilson are immortalized; three of these have been further honored through

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STATEN ISLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Business Office

the coinage of our daily transactions. Two remain to be so honored before all others.

I am addressing a copy of this proposal to Former President Lyndon Johnson in the hope that he will commend this recommendation for your favorable consideration and to Mr. Frank Gasparro, Chief Sculptor and Engraver of the United States Mint, in the hope that he will be favorably impressed with the artwork proposal which will require his talent to adapt it for the minting process.

Before closing, I must in good conscience reveal a personal bias in forwarding this suggestion (aside from my interest in coins and a natural vocational proclivity for anything involving money) - I was born on October 27th...Because it coincides with T.R.'s birthday, this date is also celebrated as Navy Day. There may be other Theodore Roosevelt admirers in this great land (or even on the moon !) but no more loyal "buff" than...

Yours very truly...and respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ARB:Boera".

A. Richard Boera
Fiscal Officer

ARB:pb

cc: President Johnson
Mr. Frank Gasparro ✓
Hon. David Kennedy

JOHN F. KENNEDY, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

1961

1965





JOHN
FITZGERALD
KENNEDY

PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES
1961-1965

JOHN F. KENNEDY



NEW
FRONTIER





DOCTOR GEORGE W. PATTERSON
ANN ARBOR





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June 17, 1968

W ATKINS
S TRATHMORE CO.

Mr. Frank Gasparro
216 Westwood Park Drive
Havertown, Pennsylvania 19083

Dear Frank:

I was absolutely thrilled and delighted to receive your most generous present. I shall always treasure your original sketch of the Dooley medal. It is truly a work of art and something I find very intriguing, as I have so little artistic talent myself.

The medals arrived in plenty of time for me to put them in my display. I am enclosing a photo showing roughly what it looked like. By the way, I took a third place trophy at our State show, so I guess it was appreciated by all.

Kindest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING
Western Publishing Company Inc.

Kenneth E. Bressett
Senior Coin Editor
Hobby Department

KEB:ca
ENC.

21

to Miss Hayden

4-29-64

THE KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR (REVERSE)

Frank Gasparro

Shortly after President Kennedy's death, plans were being made to create a lasting and significant memorial to his memory. After careful consideration and various suggestions made throughout the nation, the final decision was made by Congress to make a coin with the late President's portrait on the obverse and an appropriate design on the reverse.

The Mint received word from the Bureau that President Kennedy's portrait on the U. S. Mint Presidential Inaugural List Medal executed by Gilroy Roberts and the Presidential Seal from the same medal on the reverse designed by me, were to be used for the coin; of course, with the necessary wording required for a coin. This same Presidential Seal incorporated in this medal was personally selected by the late President to be used for the reverse of the 1961 Inaugural medal.

Since time was limited and we at the Mint had on hand the Kennedy medal patterns, it was possible to proceed with haste with this coin. However, the models in plaster form had to be considerably lowered in relief and the basins or backgrounds of these plasters had to have the correct curvature and heights for coinage striking. The obverse and reverse lettering and borders necessary for coinage had to be excised and balanced for correct composition in relation to the center motif.

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This seal was the culmination of many experiences with the study and execution of the American eagle in medallie work. The manner I used in designing the composition of the reverse was pre-planned. Deliberately I sunk the eagle into the background so the circle of fifty stars around the eagle and the border lettering appeared to radiate from the center motif. The "E Pluribus Unum" was greatly enlarged in comparison to the official Presidential Seal so that it could be easily read by the naked eye.

Before the coin was acceptable, we had to make numerous steel reductions from model to coin size. Finally, coinage production was begun at 11:00 A. M. on February 11, 1964 amidst great excitement at the Philadelphia Mint and the Denver Mint simultaneously.

I had the good fortune to be with Miss Eva Adams, Mr. Wallace, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Bura, Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, other dignitaries, TV cameras, newsreel photographers and newspaper cameras. Miss Adams gave the signal for the Philadelphia Mint and the Denver Mint (by telephone) to proceed with the coinage production of the Kennedy Half Dollar on a daily twenty-four hour basis.

U.S. HALF DOLLAR

HEIGHT = .220"

"E" PLURIBUS
UNUM —

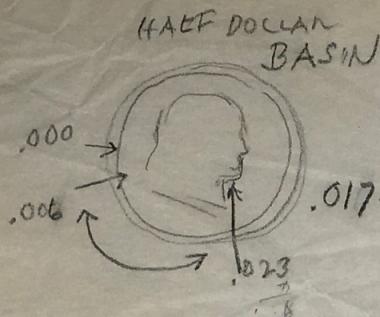
DEPTH = .010"

RATIO:- 1.1"

HEIGHT = .242"

"E" PLURIBUS
UNUM —

DEPTH = .011"

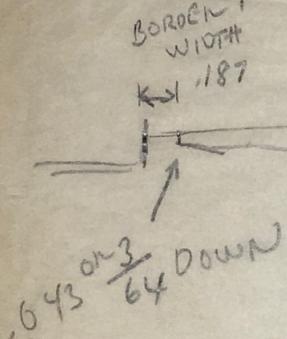


$$.017 = \text{HEIGHT OF BASE} = 1.186 = \text{DIA OF DIE}$$

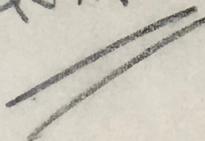
$$\begin{array}{r} .024 \text{ BORD} \\ .024 \\ \hline .048 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.885 \\ - .048 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.837 = \text{INSIDE} \\ \text{DIA ON} \\ \text{HALF DOLLAR} \end{array}$$



BASIN



FOR PLASTER

$$\begin{array}{r} 7.125 \\ 1.0 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

VICTOR D. BRENNER



AT THE EXHIBIT of the medallic work of Victor D. Brenner, June 12, 1971
--100th anniversary of the artist's birth. Left to right: Morris Bram, official
of Collectors of Art Medals, Inc., sponsors of the exhibit; Frank Gasparro,
Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint; Gene Hessler, Curator of the Chase Manhattan
Bank Money Museum; collectors Irwin Stoff and D. Wayne Johnson, who built
the exhibit. Material for the exhibit was loaned by the United States Mint Bureau,
the Medalllic Art Company of New York City, the American Numismatic Society,
and Irwin Stoff.

1582



F.RANK GASPARRO, CHIEF ENGRAVER
U.S. MINT - DESIGNED REVERSE OF
KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR -

to Miss Hayden

4-29-64

THE KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR (REVERSE)

Frank Gasparro

Shortly after President Kennedy's death, plans were being made to create a lasting and significant memorial to his memory. After careful consideration and various suggestions made throughout the nation, the final decision was made by Congress to make a coin with the late President's portrait on the obverse and an appropriate design on the reverse.

The Mint received word from the Bureau that President Kennedy's portrait on the U. S. Mint Presidential Inaugural List Medal executed by Gilroy Roberts and the Presidential Seal from the same medal on the reverse designed by me, were to be used for the coin; of course, with the necessary wording required for a coin. This same Presidential Seal incorporated in this medal was personally selected by the late President to be used for the reverse of the 1961 Inaugural medal.

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THE CREATION of the KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

A CLASSIC COIN BORN OF TRAGEDY. A FASCINATING LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES.

by THOMAS W. BECKER

The last week in November, 1963 brought the familiar dull-grey overcast Philadelphians had long grown accustomed to seeing. The promise of winter was in the air, and the bright sunshine of another summer was all but faded and gone. Rain-slick streets reflected nature's timeless formula for washing away the last remnants of a long, dry season. A gloomy chill had settled over the city, made all the more noticeable by the almost indescribable tragedies of the previous week. There was an indefinable slump to people's shoulders as they poured downtown and headed for the thousands of work stations that would bring the city to life.

Early in the morning, people already were huddled in little groups of two's and three's, quietly talking in the low murmurs that indicate great impending changes. Here and there a loud guffaw was received with disapproving stares. Elsewhere, people exchanged little glances that seemed to

A meeting with destiny — then Chief Mint Engraver, Gilroy Roberts, (left on opp. page) checks his design for a Presidential medal with John Kennedy. The design was later adapted for use on the Kennedy half dollar. Artist Joseph Voelker captures the dramatic moment in this painting commissioned exclusively for this series by COINage.



say, almost reverently, "Yes, I remember, and now I'm afraid too."

People went to work that day all over the country in a hundred thousand cities, all sensing the same quiet desperation of a promise unfulfilled — of a momentous challenge still unmet. The American Presidency had suddenly changed hands, not by popular consent or by the heated contest of the ballot box but by an act which, of its very nature, surpasses human comprehension. Now, so many little things seemed unfinished.

The United States Mint at Spring Garden Street was ablaze with light contrasting sharply with the grey pallor outside. Chief Engraver Gilroy Roberts sat calmly before the large clay portrait earmarked for the logical next medal design in the Mint's long series of Presidential medals. With a steel knife, he patched and smoothed and shaped the soft clay, changing this and that until the portrait seemed to come alive on the white plaster disc. A ringing telephone in the background went unnoticed while the mind of the artist groped to bend the skill of his many years to the uncompleted task before him. The insistent ringing became an aggravation, and Roberts pushed his chair back away from the Kennedy medal portrait. He would not return to it for months — and in the meantime, the caller on the other end of the telephone would very soon propel Roberts to undreamt of fame as a medallic sculptor.

"I remember that phone call like it was yesterday," Gilroy said in an interview recently. "It was the Mint Director, Eva Adams, telling me that a portrait of John Kennedy was needed for a new coin. At the moment, no one had yet decided which coin to put the portrait on. Mrs. Kennedy didn't want to replace George Washington on the quarter even though the quarter design was due for a change. In preparation for a quick Congressional review, the Treasury decided on the half dollar."

Creating a new coin design usually takes many months, often more than a year. The Kennedy half dollar design had to be finished in six weeks! A seemingly impossible request, the call for a Kennedy art concept passed immediately to Gilroy Roberts. Not a man to be flustered easily, he considered the immense problems for a brief time and decided the only path to certain success was to incorporate the design originally intended for the Kennedy Presidential medal.

"As Chief Engraver, I had met John Kennedy several times while working on the portrait medal. After that model was ready for the President's approval, I made an appointment to see him. I was all butterflies and nervous.

Continued on page 34

KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

Continued from page 33



In a matter of days, Gilroy Roberts, then Chief Engraver of the Mint, turned from work on a Kennedy medal (above) and created the famous Kennedy obverse. He says that Kennedy, in effect, approved the design having already seen the medal.



When it came time to go to the White House, I ended up walking past a whole bunch of other people waiting outside his office. Inside, the President was sitting at his desk and he looked up as I came in. Since his portrait was beginning to appear on all kinds of posters and mementoes, he was naturally curious about the purpose of the medal and I explained the U.S. Mint Presidential series."

One chooses his words carefully when talking to the President of the United States, and in this Roberts was no exception. The President walked over to the clay model and examined it for a moment. He then turned directly to Roberts.

"Do you think it looks like me?" he asked.

Roberts explained that, since the model was created mostly from photographs, it was a pretty good likeness. However, the sculptor hastened to add, it always helps for an artist to get a chance to study the subject's face when working on a portrait. Eager to help solve a problem, the President strode over to a window where the sunlight fell full on his face.

"O.K., take a look," Kennedy exclaimed patiently. Gilroy went over to the window and stood beside him. After a closer examination, the sculptor said he believed there were a few changes that ought to be made. Roberts then returned to Philadelphia to make the appropriate alterations. That meeting took place some time before the assassination.

The Mint medal showed Kennedy in a suit and tie, which somehow didn't seem suitable for the coin. Now in late November, he stood before the clay model thoughtfully and began to look at it from a new dimension. With one precise sweep of his blade, Roberts scribed a new circle superimposed over the old medal design. The new circle cleanly cut away the modeled suitcoat and came across the

lower portion of the neck. In that one circular movement, the final concept for the Kennedy coin portrait stood out in obvious relief.

"An artist is trained to see things that a lot of other people take for granted," Roberts mentioned in explaining how the coin design was created. "He is also trained to see things in proportion. You begin to bring a model to approach the kind of person your subject is. If you can arrive at an accurate primary silhouette, with good recognition in the model in the beginning, then you have a good start."

According to Roberts, he had spent fifteen minutes with the President, and in that time Kennedy had actually approved his own design for the half dollar unknowingly, several months before the assassination. But the toughest part of creating a good Presidential portrait, Roberts went on to explain, was getting a President's wife to approve it. "Wives are usually much tougher to please than the Presidents," Gilroy nodded. On the same day he had visited the President, a White House page had taken the clay model to Mrs. Kennedy and come back with her approval.

For the coin, though, there had to be a quick adaptation, and then several trial dies were made from the model. It had all been done in a record-breaking two weeks. The trial dies were sent to Treasury officials in Washington. Several days later, Roberts was summoned to Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon's office and the two men rode over to see Jacqueline Kennedy at her residence in Georgetown. She was there with Robert Kennedy as Dillon handed over one of the trial pieces to her. Roberts confessed with a twinkle in his eye, "Right away I could tell she liked it."

"But young Robert wanted something more dra-
Continued on page 36

KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

Continued from page 34

matic," Gilroy went on to say. "He was a very forceful person and I could see some problems coming up, in view of the tight schedule we were trying to stick to. I explained that to include anything more in the coin would necessitate in reducing the real size of the portrait, and the former President would not be as recognizable. Robert Kennedy wanted to see some drawings of his brother with a crowd of people around him, to show his enormous popularity."

By now time was growing short — in fact, it began to be apparent there might not be enough time to meet the deadline. At that precise point, Gilroy staged one of the little intuitive dramas that makes him so valuable as a creative innovator. Remembering that the Bureau of Printing and Engraving had an excellent photographic facility, he obtained several different pictures of John Kennedy giving a speech in a crowd of people. He then quickly ordered each different photo reduced down to the size of a half dollar, and sent them off to give Robert Kennedy an idea of what such a design would look like on a coin. Robert never sent back a reply; work proceeded on the coin.

Mrs. Kennedy had wanted to see a less-pronounced part in John's hair. She too was an artist in her own way, and had a very discerning eye for design. It was her only comment about the coin portrait. To lessen the impact of the part in the President's hair, which was now obvious and agreeably too emphatic for a coin, Gilroy simply mussed up the hair a little and covered the part over. After seeing it, Mrs. Kennedy gave her immediate approval and the work continued to keep to schedule.

"A new coin is always a problem," Roberts confided, "because you want as much height to the relief as possible. If the relief is too high, though, the design won't come up on the press and the metal won't flow properly up into the obverse or portrait side of the design. If the relief is too

shallow, the design doesn't look realistic. A lot also depends on what is on the other side, and it's usually necessary to make the reverse as flat as possible to allow the metal to flow up into the obverse." In this instance, Assistant Engraver (now Chief Engraver) Frank Gasparro was working hard on the reverse side of the coin and was now well into that design.

Another problem confronting the designers in the early stages of creation was the fact that both Mint officials and the Kennedy family were considering a full-face portrait instead of a side view profile for the likeness of John Kennedy. Very frankly, Gilroy indicated, the facing-type of portrait is characteristically inferior to the side portrait, especially on a coin or medal. "The profile in a circular field starts right out being more interesting," he said pointedly.

By the end of the year, the retouched dies were ready once more for examination by Treasury officials, and Roberts hurriedly took an airplane to see Secretary Dillon in Florida. After scrutinizing the designs for a few moments, Dillon commented, "I think we've accomplished Mrs. Kennedy's wishes — go ahead and make the coins." Roberts immediately called Philadelphia Mint Superintendent Michael Sura, saying that final approval had been obtained and to get the coiners cracking if they were going to keep to schedule. The coining machinery, and the gargantuan might of the United States Mint, swung into action.

For a sculptor, *the schedule* becomes a relentless taskmaster that bears down unceasingly upon his time and talent. Creativity, though, cannot be hurried if it is to be spontaneous — if it is to be truly productive and is to carry that spark of individual inspiration so vitally needed for a work of art. In spite of the unceasing demands of *the schedule*, though, the coin was quickly and expertly created after passing through the maze of official approvals, a process which in itself can utterly destroy both schedule and sculptor.

Continued on page 38

Now Chief Mint engraver
Frank Gasparro inscribed the Pres-
idential seal on the Kennedy reverse.



BLUEBERRY OFFERS SUMMER SPECIALS - PRICES GOOD UNTIL SEPTEMBER

LINCOLN HEAD CENTS

All Lincoln Cents sold by us grade at least good. Many grade much better than good as we do not pull out the better grade coins from the collections we buy. Some of the later dates grade AU and we have been known to occasionally send out a BU coin to fill an order.

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|---------------------------|--------|
| 1909S | 18.50 | 1924S | .40 |
| 1909S VDB | 95.00 | 1924D | .55 |
| 1909VDB | 1.00 | 1925S | .15 |
| 1909P | .15 | 1925D | .20 |
| 1910P | .15 | 1926S | 2.25 |
| 1910S | 3.00 | 1926D | .15 |
| 1911S | .15 | 1927S | .25 |
| 1911D | 5.95 | 1927D | .15 |
| 1911D | 1.50 | 1928S | .20 |
| 1912P | .15 | 1928D | .15 |
| 1912S | 3.95 | 1929SD | ea. |
| 1912D | 1.50 | 1930SD | ea. |
| 1913P | .15 | 1931P | 19.95 |
| 1913S | 2.75 | 1931S | 2.00 |
| 1913D | .75 | 1931D | .60 |
| 1914P | .35 | 1932D | .40 |
| 1914S | 29.50 | 1933P | .30 |
| 1915P | .50 | 1933D | 1.00 |
| 1915D | .25 | 1934P-39P | ea. |
| 1916P-21P | ea. | 1934D | .15 |
| 1916S | .50 | 1935D | ea. |
| 1916D | .40 | 1936SD | ea. |
| 1917S | .15 | 1937SD | ea. |
| 1917D | .20 | 1938S | .25 |
| 1918S | .15 | 1938D | .10 |
| 1918D | .15 | 1939S | .35 |
| 1919SD | ea. | 1943D | 19.95 |
| 1920SD | ea. | 1955 | 195.00 |
| 1921P | .40 | 1955S | .25 |
| 1922P | 35.00 | 1960P.s.d. | 2.75 |
| 1922D | 2.25 | any after 1940 not listed | ea. |
| 1923P-30P | ea. | .10 | 10 |
| 1923S | .75 | | |



A FILLER COIN may be old, well worn, damaged, and is to be regarded as a space filler only.



TYPE COINS

| | Filler | G-VG | F-VF | XF | Unc. |
|--------------------------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Half Cent | | 1.50 | 2.75 | 3.75 | 9.00 |
| Large Cent | | 2.50 | 3.75 | 6.00 | 20.00 |
| Flying Eagle Cent | | .75 | 1.25 | 3.00 | 7.50 |
| Copper Nickel Cent | | .20 | .35 | .75 | 1.50 |
| Indian Cent | | .75 | 1.00 | 1.25 | 4.00 |
| 1909D cent | | .75 | 2.75 | 4.00 | 8.00 |
| Two cent piece | | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 | 20.00 |
| Three cent silver | | 1.75 | 4.50 | 5.50 | 5.50 |
| Three cent nickel | | 1.25 | 2.75 | 3.50 | 10.00 |
| Seated half dime | | 1.50 | 2.75 | 4.00 | 12.50 |
| Shield nickel | | 1.25 | 3.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 |
| 1883NC nickel | | .50 | .75 | 1.25 | 3.00 |
| Liberty Nickel | | .20 | .35 | 1.25 | 25.00 |
| 1913PT Buffalo Nickel | | .50 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 5.00 |
| 1913PT2 Buffalo Nickel | | .90 | 1.95 | 3.50 | 8.00 |
| Buffalo Nickel | | .15 | .25 | .75 | 3.50 |
| Bust Dime | | 2.95 | 4.75 | 8.75 | — |
| Seated Dime | | 1.00 | 2.25 | 3.50 | 7.50 |
| Barber Dime | | .25 | .50 | 1.50 | 4.25 |
| Mercury Dime | | — | 20.00 | 35.00 | 65.00 |
| Twenty cent piece | | — | 12.50 | 20.00 | — |
| Bust Quarter | | 1.75 | 3.75 | 6.00 | 15.00 |
| Seated Quarter | | .50 | .75 | 2.00 | — |
| Barber Quarter | | .50 | .75 | 2.00 | 5.00 |
| Standing Liberty Quarter | | .50 | .75 | 1.50 | 25.00 |
| 1932P quarter | | — | 7.75 | 10.95 | 16.95 |
| Bust Half Dollar | | 5.00 | 7.95 | 10.95 | 90.00 |
| Seated Half Dollar | | 2.00 | 4.75 | 8.00 | 17.50 |
| Barber Half Dollar | | 1.25 | 1.95 | 6.50 | 30.00 |
| Walking Liberty half | | — | .75 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| Franklin Half | | — | 2.50 | 3.25 | 4.00 |
| Morgan dollar | | — | 2.50 | 3.25 | 4.50 |
| Peace dollar | | — | 2.50 | 3.25 | 4.00 |
| Eisenhower dollars | | — | — | — | 6.95 |

Order by type — date will be of our choice within type listed. We solicit want lists of scarce date type coins and will quote upon request.

PEACE DOLLARS

All average circulated with no damage. Some grade XF and better.

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 1921P | 12.00 | 1926D | .45 |
| 1922P | 3.75 | 1927P | .15 |
| 1922S | 4.00 | 1927S | .85 |
| 1922D | 4.00 | 1927D | .70 |
| 1923P | 3.75 | 1928P | .65 |
| 1923S | 4.00 | 1928S | .45 |
| 1923D | 4.00 | 1928D | 1.00 |
| 1924P | 4.00 | 1934S | .50 |
| 1924S | 5.00 | 1934D | .50 |
| 1925P | 4.00 | 1934D | .475 |
| 1925S | 4.50 | 1935P | .60 |
| 1926P | 5.00 | 1935S | .45 |
| 1926S | 4.00 | | |

MERCURY DIMES

All average circulated with no damage. Some later dates grade fine and better. All Mercury dimes sold by us have clear readable dates and mint marks.

| | | | |
|-------|------|---------------|-----|
| 1916P | .30 | 1927S | .55 |
| 1916D | .75 | 1927D | .80 |
| 1916S | 1.25 | 1928P | .25 |
| 1917P | .25 | 1928S | .35 |
| 1917S | .35 | 1929D | .85 |
| 1918P | 1.25 | 1929P | .50 |
| 1918S | .25 | 1929S | .55 |
| 1918D | .35 | 1929D | .30 |
| 1919P | .25 | 1930P | .95 |
| 1919S | .75 | 1931P | .50 |
| 1919D | .95 | 1931S | .25 |
| 1920P | .25 | 1931D | .55 |
| 1920S | .35 | 1932P-45P | ea. |
| 1920D | .35 | 1933D | .50 |
| 1921P | 8.00 | 1933SD | ea. |
| 1921S | 1.00 | 1936SD | ea. |
| 1923P | .25 | 1937SD | ea. |
| 1923S | .50 | 1938S | .45 |
| 1924P | .25 | 1938D | .50 |
| 1924S | .50 | 1939S | .40 |
| 1924D | .50 | 1939D | .35 |
| 1925P | .25 | 1940SD | ea. |
| 1925S | .50 | 1941SD | ea. |
| 1925D | 1.50 | 1944SD | ea. |
| 1926P | .25 | 1944SD | ea. |
| 1926S | .50 | 1945SD | ea. |
| 1927P | .25 | 1945SS micro. | .50 |

FRANKLIN HALF DOLLARS

All average circulated with no damage

| | |
|---------|----------|
| 1948P | .325 |
| 1948D | 1.25 |
| 1949P | .125 |
| 1949D | .150 |
| 1949S | .150 |
| 1949D | .125 |
| 1949P | .125 |
| 1950P | ea. 1.00 |
| 1951PD | ea. 1.00 |
| 1951PDS | ea. 1.00 |
| 1952PD | ea. 1.00 |
| 1952PDS | ea. 1.00 |
| 1953P | .125 |
| 1953D | .25 |
| 1953S | .25 |
| 1953D | .100 |
| 1954PD | ea. 1.00 |
| 1954PDS | ea. 1.00 |
| 1955P | .650 |
| 1955D | .125 |
| 1956P | .125 |
| 1957P | .125 |
| 1957D | .100 |
| 1958P | .125 |
| 1958D | .100 |
| 1959P | .125 |
| 1959D | .100 |
| 1960P | .125 |
| 1960D | .100 |
| 1961P | .125 |
| 1961D | .100 |
| 1962P | .125 |
| 1962D | .100 |
| 1963P | .125 |
| 1963D | .100 |
| 1964P | .85 |
| 1964D | .100 |
| 1965P | .85 |
| 1965D | .100 |
| 1966P | .85 |
| 1966D | .100 |
| 1967P | .85 |
| 1967D | .100 |
| 1968P | .85 |
| 1968D | .100 |
| 1969P | .85 |
| 1969D | .100 |
| 1970P | .85 |
| 1970D | .100 |
| 1971P | .85 |
| 1971D | .100 |
| 1972P | .85 |
| 1972D | .100 |
| 1973P | .85 |
| 1973D | .100 |
| 1974P | .85 |
| 1974D | .100 |
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| 1988P | .85 |
| 1988D | .100 |
| 1989P | .85 |
| 1989D | .100 |
| 1990P | .85 |
| 1990D | .100 |
| 1991P | .85 |
| 1991D | .100 |
| 1992P | .85 |
| 1992D | .100 |
| 1993P | .85 |
| 1993D | .100 |
| 1994P | .85 |
| 1994D | .100 |
| 1995P | .85 |
| 1995D | .100 |
| 1996P | .85 |
| 1996D | .100 |
| 1997P | .85 |
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| 2027P | .85 |
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| 2030P | .85 |
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| 2031D | .100 |
| 2032P | .85 |
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| 2074P | .85 |
| 2074D | .100 |
| 2075P | .85 |
| 2075D | .100 |
| 2076P | .85 |
| 2076D | .100 |
| 2077P | .85 |
| 2077D | .100 |
| 2078P | .85 |
| 2078D | .100 |
| 2079P | .85 |

KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

Continued from page 36

"One of the sculptors I felt most sorry for, and who was extremely capable, was Laura Gardin Fraser. Someone in the government took exception to her design of the Washington Quarter and killed it. It's a shame, because the design was right and would have been a real credit to our coinage. The incident shows, though, what can happen when too many people get involved in a situation they're not trained to understand."

There are other obvious problems faced by Treasury and Mint officials, too. Because collectors want so many new designs, the Mint Bureau comes under a considerable amount of pressure from a number of different sources. "The Director would like to please everyone, but just can't — everyone wants a different design on our coins and the Mint is caught in the middle. Also, there's a definite prestige about our coins that just has to be maintained — not only in America but in other countries as well," Roberts concluded.

A coin design cannot be created by just any sculptor. Very often it takes years of training simply to learn how to do an acceptable piece of work within a circular field, which many artists find too confining. To produce a masterpiece under such conditions requires an unusual man indeed. Roberts was asked to comment on this aspect of coin design.

"I studied under John Sinnock, who designed the Franklin Roosevelt dime. He was a very competent man. I also studied banknote engraving which is extremely tedious work. So, all my life I have worked with smaller objects. I think you can get a heroic feeling or quality in a small size, because it's all relative. Size has an emphasis all its own, and if it is really good a design will easily survive being reduced down to the smaller size. Many artists work in oils in small panels with incredible results, that's nothing new. Also, some collectors think the bolder a relief, the more impressive it is. This just isn't always true. I'm in favor of something not too bold, and not too low in relief."

"There was a movement during Teddy Roosevelt's administration to make our coins in the style of the classical Greeks. But Roosevelt was in a modern, mechanized world. High Relief looks hand-made; some low relief medals and coins have the mass production appearance to them. Low relief is the most efficient and economical way to make a coin."

Indeed, the creation of the Kennedy portrait was accomplished on a clockwork basis. In retrospect, it looked something like this:

Nov. 27 — Decision to use the Kennedy profile on a half dollar coin was made in Washington; Roberts already at work on the plastilene (clay) model.

Dec. 10 — White House issued press releases explaining why the Benjamin Franklin half dollar design was being changed.

Dec. 13 — Trial strikes were made from the first dies and delivered to Mint Director Eva Adams.

Dec. 15 — Kennedy design conference with Treasury officials in Washington.

Dec. 17 — Initial meeting between Gilroy Roberts, and Jacqueline and Robert Kennedy at Georgetown.

Dec. 22 — New trial strikes were prepared for both sides of the coin and again sent to Washington for examination.

Dec. 27 — Roberts flew to Florida to meet with Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon; final authorization obtained to proceed with the striking.

Dec. 30 — Congressional Act authorizing the coin was approved.

Feb. 11 — Simultaneous ceremonies at Denver and Philadelphia Mints to commemorate the striking of the new half dollar.

Mar. 5 — Initial delivery of some 26 million of the new Kennedy halves was made to federal reserve banks for issue to local banks.

Needless to say, the new Kennedy half dollar was an instantaneous success. Here and there a few dissonant remarks were made, but they were not about the coin design. In the midst of unveiling the new coin, an irresponsible New York newspaperman questioned the use of a "Soviet hammer and sickle" on our new Kennedy coin. The remarks were received by the Treasury Department in open-mouthed astonishment, because the newspaperman had referred to the "design" just below the trunk of Kennedy's neck. With accustomed patience, the Treasury explained that the characters were not a "design" but rather the signature-monogram of the sculptor (G)ilroy (R)oberts.

"I still don't know where they ever got the hammer from," Roberts shook his head. "In fact, I've tried to envision the monogram as a hammer and sickle and I can't do it." The whole affair soon died down.

What kind of a creative mind produces the brilliant art inherent in the Kennedy portrait? Roberts is a meticulous

Continued on page 40



The first Kennedy's to roll out of the Mint were anxiously awaited by the public. It took just a few months between the time the tragic assassination occurred and the first coins were minted.

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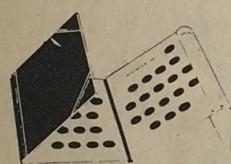
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KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR

Continued from page 38

sculptor, with a sharp eye for detail and the type of patience that allows his art to develop naturally and as mature representations. Personally, he is that kind of unpretentious man, working at the craft that gives him endless delight, that you would stop on the street and ask for directions. His whole manner is matter-of-fact and easy-going, a completely relaxed approach to everything. As the younger generation would say, "He's loose — no hang-ups — not up-tight." A lifetime of satisfying experiences has shaped his appraisal of life and instilled in him an appreciation for beauty that carried over into his entire life-style.

"A work of art should be something you'd like to possess," Gilroy reflected. "If it's grotesque, or has gross political connotations or an ugly meaning, it loses its beauty and then it's contrary to my belief. That's why I tried to talk Robert Kennedy out of depicting the President giving a speech to a crowd — we weren't trying to make a political poster out of the design, just a simple but pleasing likeness of a guy everybody loved because of his bright personality.

"Too, I think the nearness of a portrait to the person being portrayed should far outshine the artist who produced it. You should look at it and say, 'Oh, that's so-and-so' instead of saying 'That's the work of so-and-so.' When you see a bust of George Washington done by Houdon, you know Washington must look like that. I really believe in the old saying, 'A work of art is a thing of beauty and a joy forever.' Art should have an appeal, an attractiveness that makes you want to be around it. That's what I tried to put into the Kennedy portrait."

He went on to talk about other beliefs, especially his working approach to medallic design which applies directly to the Kennedy half dollar. "When you work on a portrait, sometimes you can almost hypnotize yourself into believing it's right. When that happens, you should put it away for a while and then come back to look at it, or test it out by looking at it in a mirror. Sometimes you find then little features that bother you, and you can change them and re-shape them as they really ought to be. No one feature should overpower the rest. Kennedy had a great shock of hair, and most people remember it, but he had many other obvious features that should be emphasized, too.

"I felt it would be a mistake to include the coat and shoulders in the coin design; something in my past experience just told me not to do it that way, that it was wrong from an artistic viewpoint. His head is pretty far up on the coin, but again I felt it should be that way, so that the portrait would be very subtle. Sometimes you just do things like that instinctively."

Roberts' attractive wife Lillian has contributed a great deal to the sculptor's ability and philosophy, but in her own way she always has served as a sort of silent conscience for Gilroy, and by studying her reaction to a particular creation he can tell just where he stands with it. "If she doesn't say anything, I know she doesn't like it. Her reaction is a general reaction, and that's what I want and need. Most of the work on the Kennedy portrait was done at the Mint and she didn't have a chance to see the model develop, but she did see it at various stages of incompleteness toward the end."

So much of an artist's life revolves around feelings, what some people might even call "instinct." Creativity

itself depends upon an artist's mood — you can't force inspiration, it just has to happen. If an artist is angry, or depressed, or impatient and anxious, his work will show it and he'll have a difficult time getting things right. On the other hand, though, the artist has little problem with creative skill when he is happy and confident and carefree. It was logical that Roberts must have felt something when he was doing the Kennedy portrait for the coin — the design shows it, and has that look about it that discloses good insight on the part of the sculptor.

"I had a tremendous feeling of sadness — and I wanted to make as beautiful a memorial as possible. Later, doing a portrait of the late Robert Kennedy, I felt a sense of hopelessness — what hope does the human race have? I had a feeling that civilization hasn't gone very far, for someone to think that the elimination of one man is going to make things better. I suppose political figures and celebrities are good targets for this kind of thing. Assassination is not the mark of an advanced civilization."

It is a simple but ironic fact that John F. Kennedy, in approving the original portrait design for the U.S. Mint's series of Presidential medals, did actually approve the design that would eventually become his own memorial coin. But there can be little satisfaction in the reality of that fact. Much more important is the fact that the portrait is almost photographic in capturing the likeness of John Kennedy. Having heard him speak, and watched him move about on the television screen, we see the portrait on the coin as the embodiment of everything he was. The portrait is real even more because Kennedy seemed real — he had the kind of personality that "everyman" could identify with, and he possessed a natural charm that endeared him to old and young alike.

There remained only one question that begged to be answered by the Kennedy coin portraitist; what does it feel like to get a half dollar in change and see the familiar profile gazing up from the coin you created almost a decade ago?

"I still get a tremendous satisfaction when that happens," Roberts confessed unashamedly, "not because I created it but because I believe I gave to the world a meaningful memento of a man, and maybe helped record a little bit of the life and times he lived in. The coin is a very enduring monument — it'll be around forever because it's the kind of memorial we won't ever lose. We still dig up Greek and Roman coins. Paintings, sculpture, literature are all very brittle things — but they have no enduring quality compared to coinage. I hope the Kennedy half dollar will tell people for centuries to come what kind of a man John F. Kennedy was."

The Kennedy coin portrait has brought Gilroy Roberts undeniable fame, but Roberts does not consider fame to be any kind of real achievement. His penetrating talent has allowed him to go through life doing the thing he likes to do best — creating art. Over the long years of our lives, we all hope to make at least one worthwhile contribution to the times we live in — we all hope to achieve something so that we can believe our lives were lived with a purpose. We should try to put something back into life to at least partially make up for all that we have taken out of it.

For Gilroy Roberts, all the fascinating designs that went before, and all the brilliantly inspired creations that came after the Kennedy half dollar will be counted as gifts to the people of our time. But the Kennedy portrait will forever be the example by which Roberts is judged. As a point in fact, there could be no better yardstick.

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| FINLAND (Olympics) 1952 500 Markkaa | 45.00 | Above - 1st Issue - Set of 4 Diff. Mints | 34.00 |
| AUSTRIA (Olympics) 1964 25 Schillings | 9.00 | 1972 (1970) 10 Marks | 5.00 |
| JAPAN (Olympics) 1964 100 Yen | 20.00 | Above - 2nd Issue - Set of 4 Diff. Mints | 18.00 |
| 1964 1000 Yen | 3.50 | 1972 (1971) 10 Marks | 6.00 |
| MEXICO (Olympics) 1968 25 Pesos | 5.00 | Above - 3rd Issue - Set of 4 Diff. Mints | 20.00 |
| JAMAICA (Games) 1966 Copper Nickel CROWN | 10.00 | 1972 (1972) 10 Marks | 6.00 |
| PANAMA (Games) 1970 5 Balboas | 5.00 | Above - 4th Issue - Set of 4 Diff. Mints | 20.00 |
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| 1858 SL | 3.00 | 4.50 | 5.00 | 5.50 | 6.00 | | |
| 1858 LL | 3.00 | 4.50 | 5.00 | 5.50 | 6.00 | | |
| 1859 | 1.25 | 1.95 | 2.50 | 4.50 | | | |
| 1860 | 1.25 | 2.00 | 2.50 | 4.25 | | | |
| 1861 | 3.00 | 5.75 | 6.50 | 11.00 | | | |
| 1862 | 1.00 | 1.85 | 2.00 | 3.50 | | | |
| 1863 | 1.00 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 3.00 | | | |
| 1864 CN | 2.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 | 9.00 | | | |
| 1864 Br. | 1.00 | 1.75 | 2.25 | 4.00 | | | |
| 1865 | 1.00 | 1.65 | 2.25 | 4.25 | | | |
| 1866 | 4.50 | 7.00 | 10.00 | 17.50 | | | |
| 1867 | 4.50 | 7.00 | 10.00 | 17.50 | | | |
| 1868 | 4.50 | 7.00 | 10.00 | 17.50 | | | |
| 1869 | 7.00 | 12.00 | 17.00 | 40.00 | | | |
| 1870 | 7.00 | 12.00 | 17.00 | 40.00 | | | |
| 1871 | 10.00 | 14.00 | 19.00 | 40.00 | | | |
| 1872 | 11.00 | 15.50 | 22.00 | 47.50 | | | |
| 1873 | 2.00 | 3.50 | 5.00 | 10.00 | | | |
| 1874 | 2.00 | 3.50 | 5.00 | 10.00 | | | |
| 1875 | 2.00 | 3.50 | 5.00 | 10.00 | | | |
| 1876 | 3.00 | 4.75 | 5.75 | 12.50 | | | |
| 1877 | — | 77.50 | 90.00 | 115.00 | | | |
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|---------|----------|-------|----------|-------|------|
| 1880-83 | .75 | 1.00 | 1.75 | 4.75 | 6.00 |
| 1884 | 1.25 | 1.75 | 3.00 | 5.00 | |
| 1885 | 2.50 | 3.25 | 5.00 | 8.00 | |
| 1886 | 1.25 | 2.00 | 3.50 | 5.50 | |
| 1887-88 | .50 | .75 | 1.50 | 3.00 | |
| 1889-91 | .45 | .60 | 1.25 | 2.25 | |
| 1892 | .50 | .75 | 1.50 | 3.00 | |
| 1893 | .45 | .60 | 1.25 | 2.25 | |
| 1894 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 4.50 | 7.00 | |
| 1895-99 | .40 | .55 | 1.00 | 2.00 | |
| 1900-08 | .35 | .50 | .55 | 1.00 | |
| 1908-S | 12.00 | 12.75 | 14.50 | 16.50 | |
| 1909 | .55 | .75 | 1.00 | 1.50 | |
| 1909-S | 50.00 | 54.00 | 60.00 | 72.50 | |

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| 1917-D.... 85.00 1920-S.... 52.50 1926-D.... 60.00 1929-S.... 20.00 |
| 1917-S.... 27.50 1923..... 17.50 1926-S.... 400.00 1930..... 20.00 |
| 1918..... 35.00 1923-S.... 110.00 1927..... 15.00 1930-S.... 60.00 |
| 1918-D.... 45.00 1924..... 27.50 1927-D.... 200.00 1931..... 40.00 |
| 1918-S.... 45.00 1924-D.... 100.00 1927-S.... 135.00 1931-D.... 60.00 |
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Congress Is Asked For Kennedy Coin



The Franklin half-dollar (left) would be replaced by 50-cent piece bearing image of John F. Kennedy under proposal by President Johnson. Mr. Kennedy's image would be same as used on commemorative medal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (UPI).

PRESIDENT JOHNSON asked Congress Tuesday to honor the memory of John F. Kennedy by authorizing a new 50-cent piece bearing the late President's portrait.

If the bill is approved, the new coin would replace the Benjamin Franklin half-dollar.

In his message to Congress, Mr. Johnson indicated his request was prompted in part by similar appeals from many Americans in letters written since Mr. Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22.

The face of the new half-dollar would bear a likeness of Mr. Kennedy's profile, and the inscription "Liberty, In God We Trust," as well as the year of coinage. On the reverse would appear an adaptation of the Presidential seal and the words "United States of America, half dollar, E Pluribus Unum."

* * *

THE Kennedy portrait was designed by Gilroy Roberts, chief engraver of the U. S. Mint, and was approved by Mr. Kennedy in 1961 for use on the latest of the "Presidential series" of collectors' medals for sale at the Philadelphia mint.

Mr. Johnson told Congress that swift approval of the bill could mean issuance of a Kennedy half-dollar in early January, when a new minting of 50-cent pieces had been planned.

Rep. Wright Patman (D., Tex.), chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, said he favored the proposal and his committee would consider the bill soon.

Today the four coins that carry a Presidential image are the Lincoln penny, Roosevelt dime, Jefferson nickel and Washington quarter. The silver dollar bears a representation of "Liberty" on one side and an eagle on the other.

"Since there is a limited amount of silver held by the Treasury for coinage," the White House said, twice as many Kennedy half-dollars could be put into circulation than if his likeness were put on the silver dollar.

* * *

MR. JOHNSON'S bill would amend the present law requiring that a coin's design remain unchanged for 25 years after its issue. The Franklin half-dollar was issued in 1948.

Franklin's image was chosen, the bureau of the mint said at the time, because "he never lost an opportunity to preach the virtues of thrift."

His face on the half-dollar, it added, was intended to "serve as a reminder that thrifty financial management is as important to individuals and to society as it was in Franklin's time."

The White House said the cost of making the new coin would be nominal because a Kennedy design already exists and the Treasury could perform all the necessary work of making new dies.

ns Self to Death

retired South Korean army 100 yards from the official residence of Chung Hee Park. Lt. Col. Kim Ki-Hyun, 35, died Saturday, due to whether his suicide was a protest directed at Park. He sat on a bench in Changchung-dan and then touched a gun to his head.

ay 16, 1961, narrowly won election. He has been known to support constitutional government.

U.S. forces are known to support constitutional government. He has been a strongman.

French Mart Farm Talks

French Agriculture Minister Jean-Pierre Martini has agreed to European Common Market and West Germany of blocking a "real" common farm policy. He has also maximized the internal crisis since French President Charles de Gaulle's application to join the European Community.

He said a "solemn warning" to miners, and said he was leaving about the West German

Arms Parley Group

ary R. A. Butler will be in Geneva to the Geneva disarmament conference next month in Geneva, Switzerland.

It does not necessarily mean he will participate.

Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home, when questioned about a statement that Butler would

Dateline

Week Urged

ire Services

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.

A work week was urged Tuesday by James B. Carey as one way to combat the degrading and lacerating fact of poverty."

International Union of Electrical Workers, backed a cut to 35 hours, plus payments to discourage

subcommittee such a step to combat unemployment problem but, at least in business, would bring it to a standstill."

in the industry, he said, it is to work 61,000 of the 80,000 workers now unemployed.

It, job retraining, area redevelopment programs as necessary Federal employment.

cans—two-fifths of the population in "privilege," with family income near.

"We are in a bind and our shame," he said, "but we have made no serious

Line for FDIC Job

to nominate Joseph W. Barr, 45, to the Treasury for Congressional nomination to the Federal Insurance Corp. board, the

temporarily held out have been freed.

The U. S. Government was reported putting the heaviest pressure on Bolivia to get the Americans freed immediately and safely.

In Washington, the State Department made a formal protest to the Bolivian Government over the seizure of the Americans. A State Department spokesman said the protest was made even though "we recognize and appreciate the extensive effort the Bolivian Government is making to secure the release of the hostages."

WARNED VICE PRESIDENT

U. S. Ambassador Douglas Henderson telegraphed Juan Lechin, Bolivia's rebellious vice president who heads the miners union, that Lechin will be held responsible for any harm that might come to the four Americans.

The four Americans are Thomas Martin, 27, of New York, and Michael A. Kristula, 25, of Cadillac, Mich., who are U. S. Information Service officers; U. S. labor officer Bernard Rifkin, 52, a native of Brooklyn, and Peace Corps volunteer Robert Federstrom, whose parents live in Honolulu.

THREATEN FOOD CUT

They were seized after going to the Catavi mining area, southeast of La Paz, to deliver \$15,000 U. S. aid check to be used for a school and an orphanage.

Two of the three Communist laborites the rebel miners seek to free are charged with the murder of a rival trade-union official. The third is accused of fraud.

Earlier Tuesday, the Government warned the miners at Catavi that it would cut off their food supplies unless they release the hostages by Wednesday night.

Butler Ends

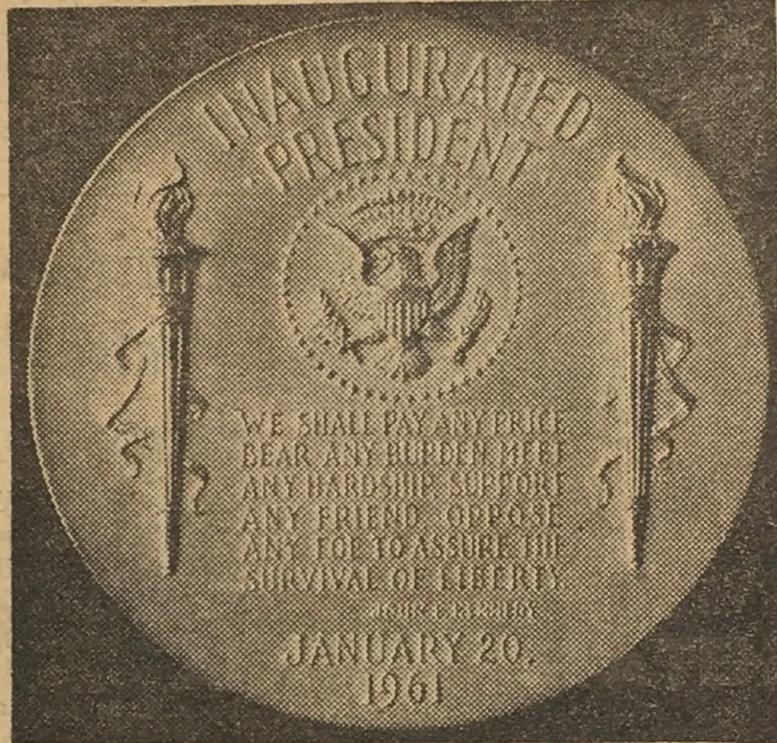
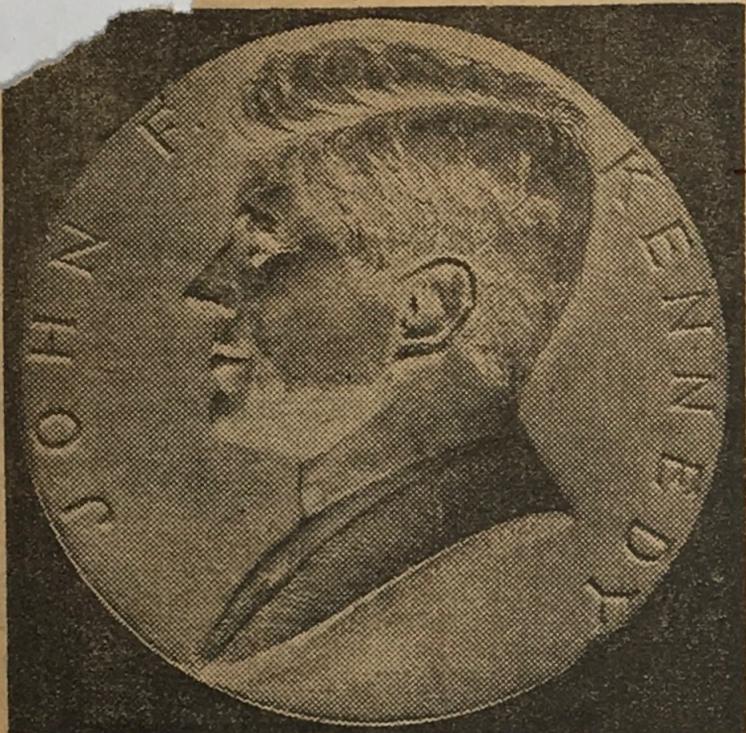
Bonn Talks

BONN, West Germany, Dec. 10 (Reuters).—British Foreign Secretary R. A. Butler ended two days of talks Tuesday with his West German counterpart, Gerhard Schroeder, on a "pleasing agreement of views" over Anglo-German cooperation.

The talks produced no concrete results, sources said, but they apparently paved the way for better Anglo-German cooperation, an easing of East-West tensions, and cleared up at least one misunderstanding.

British and West German sources said after Butler had left by air for a 24-hour visit to Berlin that the talks had gone well.

A communiqué said the "development of Anglo-German cooperation has led to a welcome community of views."



Official Kennedy Mint Medal Issued

This is the official presidential medal of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, struck at the Philadelphia Mint. The work of Gilroy Roberts, chief engraver of the United States Mint, and his assistant, Frank Gasparro, the three-inch bronze medal is an illustrious counterpart to the official presidential series which starts with Washington and ends with the 35th chief executive. The Kennedy medal bears the president's profile and his name on the

obverse. On the reverse are the presidential seal and these words from his inaugural speech: "We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival of liberty." All presidential medals cost \$3. They can be ordered by sending money orders, certified checks or cashier's checks to Mrs. Rae V. Biester, Superintendent, United States Mint, Philadelphia 30, Pa.



or three for \$2. The
three for \$1 or 35 cents each.
Sterling silver medals cost \$3.25
with a limited issue of 5,000 upon
advance order only. There will be
10,000 bronze and 2,500 aluminum
pieces struck.

Maine Club Picks Big Date For Show

The Camden Y Coin Club will hold its first annual coin auction at the K of C Hall on Water Street in Rockland, Maine, during the 1961 Lobster Festival on Saturday, August 5.

The Hall will overlook the festival grounds, according to the committee.

There will be free parking for the owners of bourse tables, and a chance for exhibitors to load and unload their cars in front of the door. Cases of all bourse tables owners will be under police protection; an officer will be on duty in the hall all day.

Doors will be open from 10 a.m. with the auction to start at 4 p.m. The bourse tables, two and one-

Iowa Medal Club's new release.

Shawnee Hills Medalists of Harrisburg, Ill., is the striking agency; the artist is Dan Satterfield.

A plastic holder for the medals is also planned by the Medal club, to be available at about the same time the medals are ready for delivery.

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| | |
|-----------|---------|
| 1842 XF | \$22.50 |
| 1843 XF | 22.50 |
| 1846 XF | 22.50 |
| 1846 AU | 32.50 |
| 1847 XF | 22.50 |
| 1847 AU | 30.00 |
| 1859 VF | 24.00 |
| 1859-O XF | 22.50 |
| 1859-O AU | 32.50 |
| 1860-O F | 12.00 |
| 1860-O XF | 22.50 |
| 1860-O AU | 30.00 |
| 1866 XF | 32.50 |
| 1868 F | 17.50 |

FOR TYPE COLLECTORS,
one each without motto



BRONZE MEDAL with the profile of the late President John F. Kennedy is displayed by Elizabeth Schoenek, a secretary at the U. S. Mint.

The U. S. Mint in Philadelphia has reported a sharp increase in orders for the Kennedy Medal since the assassination of President Kennedy Nov. 22.

Michael Sura, superintendent of the Mint, said there has been "a terrific increase in demand for the medals."

The Kennedy Medal, one of the presidential series, is produced only at the Philadelphia Mint, 16th and Spring Garden sts. It has been in production since July, 1961.

It is three inches in diameter and is bronze. It's

sold at \$3 a medal postpaid by mail only.

Designed by Frank Gasparro and Gilroy Roberts, staff engravers, the medal has a portrait of Mr. Kennedy on the front and a quotation from his inaugural address on the reverse side.

The presidential series includes medals of all the presidents—all at \$3 postpaid.

The image of Mr. Kennedy on the medal is the same as would be used on the 50-cent piece to replace that of Benjamin Franklin, as proposed by President Johnson yesterday.

Channel Chat

Channel 10 Acquires 215 Movies

CHANNEL 10 announced today it has acquired 215 Universal feature pictures, all of them dating after 1950. They will be shown on the station's "Early" and "Late" shows after the first of the year.

The package includes "Magnificent Obsession," starring Rock Hudson and Jane Wyman; "The Glen Miller Story," featuring James Stewart and June Allyson; "The Shrike," with Jose Ferrer; "The Far Country," with James Stewart and Ruth Roman, and "The Spoilers," starring Ann Baxter. Some of the old "Ma and Pa Kettle" pictures, Abbott and Costello, and Francis the Talking Mule films also are included.

NBC plans to present a one-hour special in color called "The Pope's Pilgrimage," on Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 9 to 10 P. M. It will follow the visit of Pope Paul VI in the Holy Land Jan. 4, 5 and 6. The network has assigned five camera crews to the job and plans to fly film back to the U. S. several times daily for fast editing. John Chancellor, Irving R. Levine and Frank Bourgholtzer are correspondents assigned to the historic journey.

JUDY GARLAND and her three children, Liza, 17, Lorna, 11, and Joey, eight, together with singers Jack Jones and Mel Torme, will get together to present a special Christmas edition of the Judy Garland Show on Sunday, Dec. 22, 9 to 10 P. M., Channel 10.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY will serve as host to nine Philadelphia area schools this week for a discussion on a proposed

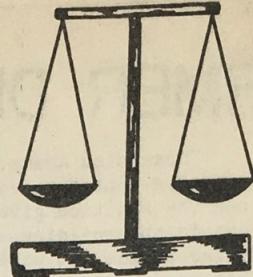
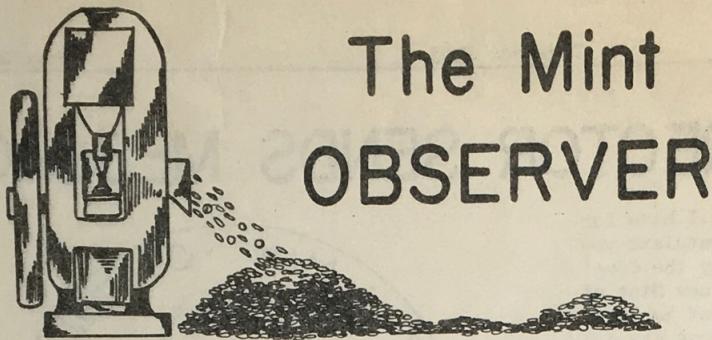
program of participation with WHYY-TV in educational television. John P. Twaddle, program director of Channel 12, will attend the meeting. The colleges hope to form an educational TV committee for this area and to pool its efforts in offering "telecourses" for credit.

SIR LAURENCE OLIVIER will narrate "John F. Kennedy: A Son of Liberty," to be presented on Channel 12, Friday, Dec. 20, from 8 to 8.30 P. M. It will be in the form of a series of dramatic readings presenting the statements of the late President on vital issues of the day. Readers will be Gary Merrill, Eli Wallach, Anne Bancroft and newsman Joseph C. Harsch. The program was produced in Britain.

THE Handel and Haydn Society of Boston will perform the complete Handel's Christmas oratorio, "Messiah," in a three-and-one-half hour program to be presented on Channel 12 on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 8 P. M., and again on Christmas Day, starting at 3 P. M.

RADIO ROUND: Brace Beemer, better known to millions of radio listeners as "The Masked Rider of the Plains," the man who shouted "Hi-Yo Silver" as the Lone Ranger, is now the narrator of a religious program on Detroit radio. He introduces ministers on a Lutheran program. Beemer says there is no conflict. "The content of the Lone Ranger program was good for Sunday schoolers and consistent with Sunday school teaching, he says.

is No More at Sears

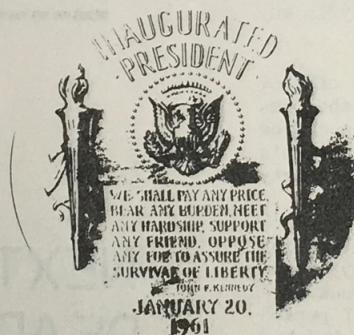


Volume 1

December 1963

Number 3

IN MEMORIAM



JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL

FORMER DIRECTOR SENDS MESSAGE

"Dear Miss Adams.....I have for some time wanted to congratulate you upon the sanction given by the Congress to the building of a new Mint at Philadelphia. It will meet a long-felt need....Congratulations are due you too on the advent of The Mint OBSERVER. I have devoured the two issues that have been sent me..."

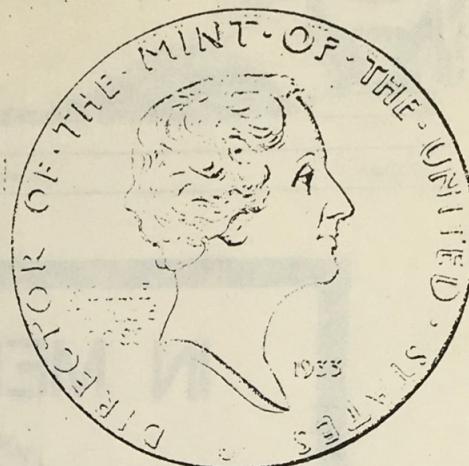
The message came in the form of a personal letter to the Director. Its author, however, is a woman whom many Mint employees still remember warmly, though more than a decade has passed since she last occupied her old-fashioned, high-ceilinged suite on the northwest corner of the Treasury Building. She is Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint from May 5, 1933 to April 29, 1953, and the first woman ever to hold the position.

In her letter she noted the large number of strange names among the personnel and added: "Truly we live in a world of change...Nothing is static..." Her remarkable career is the best testimonial to this fact. Not only was she the first member of her sex to direct the Mint, but she was also elected Governor of Wyoming to finish her husband's unexpired term when he died in 1922 - the first woman to serve in this capacity in any state in the United States.

Following her tenure in office, she became vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and from 1929 to 1932 was in charge of women's activities for the Democratic party with offices in Washington.

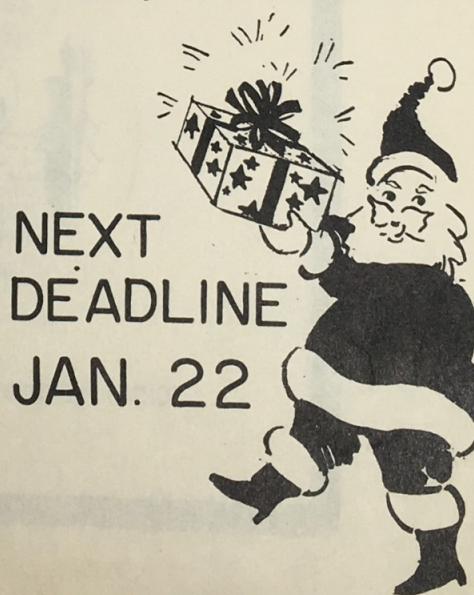
When Mrs. Ross came to the Mint in 1933 output was 358,269,353 coins. Just 12 years later, the peak production for the World War II period was more than 4,000,000,000. She herself has characterized the growth as that from infant to giant.

She currently resides in Washington, although she has been away from home much of the time of late. "For one who is supposed to have all the leisure there is," she concluded in her letter, "I seem to keep surprisingly busy with commitments of one kind and another."



Nellie Tayloe Ross (1933).

Miss Adams' response reflected the high esteem with which her predecessor is remembered here: "You are spoken of very frequently down here in your Mint," she wrote, "and all of the field people ask about you when I go out. I will be happy to tell them of your continued interest, as this is your family and your Mint, very surely, and everything is better because of your influence."





Kennedy Numismatica

Other presidents have been honored on our coinage, but none so soon after his death as John F. Kennedy. The half dollar shown is a photographer's version of what the coin will look like. This story appeared first in the Appleton, Wisconsin, Post-Crescent.

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BUFFALO NICKELS

AG

G

VG

| | | |
|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1913I | (dateless | .30) |
| 1913D | (dateless | .95) |
| 1913S | (dateless | 1.15) |
| 1914S | 1.50 | 2.25 |
| 1915 | .50 | .95 |
| 1916S | .95 | 1.60 |
| 1917 | | .30 |
| 1917D | 1.30 | 2.25 |
| 1917S | 1.45 | 2.50 |
| 1918 | 1.75 | 2.75 |
| 1918D | 1.75 | 2.75 |
| 1918S | 1.50 | 2.25 |
| 1919 | .20 | .30 |
| 1919D | 1.50 | 2.75 |
| 1919S | 1.25 | 2.25 |
| 1920 | .20 | .25 |
| 1920D | 1.00 | 2.25 |
| 1920S | .80 | 2.15 |
| 1921 | .40 | .60 |
| 1921S | 6.50 | 9.00 |
| 1922 | .15 | .35 |
| 1922S | .75 | 1.45 |
| 1923 | .15 | .20 |
| 1924 | .15 | .35 |
| 1924D | 1.00 | 1.75 |
| 1924S | 2.00 | 4.00 |
| 1925 | .15 | .20 |
| 1925D | | 3.50 |
| 1925S | 1.60 | 2.50 |
| 1926 | .15 | .20 |
| 1926D | 1.40 | 2.25 |
| 1926S | 2.00 | 3.25 |
| 1927 | .15 | .20 |
| 1927D | .45 | .75 |
| 1927S | .75 | 1.45 |
| 1928 | .15 | .20 |
| 1928D | .25 | .35 |
| 1928S | .25 | .35 |

G

VG

F

| | | | |
|-------|-----|------|------|
| 1929 | .20 | .30 | .50 |
| 1929D | .35 | .40 | .95 |
| 1929S | .30 | .65 | 1.25 |
| 1930 | .20 | .25 | .45 |
| 1930S | .65 | .95 | 1.15 |
| 1931S | | 3.75 | 4.50 |
| 1934 | .15 | .20 | .40 |
| 1934D | .25 | .35 | .65 |
| 1935 | .10 | .20 | .25 |
| 1935D | .15 | .25 | .35 |
| 1935S | .15 | .25 | .35 |
| 1936 | .10 | .20 | .25 |
| 1936D | .15 | .25 | .30 |
| 1936S | .15 | .25 | .20 |
| 1937 | .10 | .20 | .25 |
| 1937D | .20 | .25 | .35 |
| 1937S | .20 | .25 | .35 |
| 1938D | | .75 | 1.00 |

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stairway, at the first landing of which is the Mint's display room. Originally the Mint's famous coin collection was housed here. It was then moved to the Smithsonian Institute where it reposes today.

Now the display room contains a few old account books, some Mint relics and a number of medals along with some plaster models for coins. Here also is an office where one can purchase Mint medals.

Kennedy Numismatica

(Continued from page 55)

nedy's enthusiasm for a U.S. Peace Corps.

The Dutch medal will be issued in gold, silver and bronze.

Another group of collectors' items not always recognized as numismatica are campaign buttons and pins. A host of these was issued for the 1960 campaign and hundreds more were being designed and manufactured for the 1964 race. These, too, have suddenly upstaged many non-Kennedy numismatic items.

These pieces range from the usual campaign buttons through buttons with ribbons, fancy pins and lapel pieces, gold plated and glass-diamond encrusted tie pins to a silver PT boat clearly marked PT 109.

One manufacturer said of an item he was planning for 1964, "It's a shame this button, which was to read 'Jack once more in 64', should now have to read 'In his memory'."

In view of growing inflation, the North Carolina man who found \$163,000 in Confederate money is advised to keep it—just in case.

* * *

They tell us that the words "In God We Trust" are put on pennies for the benefit of those who put them in electric fuse boxes.

* * *

Prices are constantly rising, and every day the value of Confederate money is approaching that of U.S. currency.

* * *

High prices hit us all, but there is one sure way to get more for your money than you expect—stand on a penny scale.

All of the Mint's rooms and offices are old fashioned and imposing in appearance.

However, within the next few years, a new chapter will be written in the Mint's history. A modern, more functional design has been submitted to the government for a new Mint and when it is completed, a new era of coin production will be ushered in.

Several buttons carry ribbons to which is pinned a small golden rocking chair. Others simply have a small medalet with the President's portrait and are suspended by a chain.

But none of the numismatic pieces available in honor of the late President have created interest equal to the new half dollar. None is more appropriately a memorial.

For, in keeping with the tradition of the centuries, the face of President John F. Kennedy on our half dollar will tell future generations, perhaps future civilizations, that 1963 was a year of upheaval in America, a year when men were forced to admit that humanity has changed little through the centuries.

And future civilizations can read another vivid chapter in the long story of mankind told so graphically on coins.



"Don't be silly, Bert, my wife is glad to have me come home at any hour of the day and show friends my coin collection!"

Mr. Moneypenny

and

the Milkman

By Jim Whalen

Mr. Money. Hello, Milkyway Dairy Products, when your man made a delivery to-day to our house Mrs. Moneypenny gave him a Bugs Bunny.

Milkman. Well, she shouldn't have done that. Our men are under strict orders not to accept any gratuities. And I can assure you we will look into the matter.

Mr. Money. But this wasn't a gift! She paid him for two milks with a Bunny from my Franklin collection.

Milkman. Boy, that's really something. But don't you worry, you know how fast they multiply. There may be three or four more there when you hang up.

Mr. Money. You don't understand. This isn't live!

Milkman. Oh! No! You mean it is a toy? Aren't you a little old for that kind of stuff?

Mr. Money. That's not the point. The fact is that the Bunny is fifty cents, it's in with your receipts and I would like to get it back as I have a vacant space.

Milkman. Mr. Moneypenny you have just won a prize. You said the magic words for our slogan contest, "VACANT SPACE" Fill up the vacant space in your refrigerator with Milkyway Dairy Products. We are sending you a carton of bubble gum, a Yo-Yo, and a brand new Bunny. Hello, Hello, must have hung up.

military leaders to give monetary rewards to their retainers. A leader known for his generous gifts seldom had a shortage of loyal followers.

Perhaps the best known coins minted under Hideyoshi's control were the OBAN, the KOBAN and the ICHIBUBAN, or the large gold coin, the small gold coin and the smallest gold coin. Often the names are written with the suffix KIN which means gold. This is not necessary for BAN translates as "gold coin." If the prefix GIN, meaning silver, is added, the coin described is a silver one instead of gold.

Hideyoshi's OBAN was large enough to cover a man's palm with gold for it measured 145 mm by 86 mm and weighed 165 grams. One of the world's largest gold coins, it is also recognized as an object of fine art.

Although money had been circulating in Japan for almost a thousand years, there still were some who considered it to be unworthy of notice. The Samurai spirit was one of supreme loyalty and patriotism. It was not appropriate to accumulate items of material value. The story is told of how one proud warrior examined coins by tossing them on his fan, not wanting to defile his hands by touching the unclean objects.

But others appreciated its worth. A Samurai dropped the smallest of coins when crossing a river in Kamakura. Onlookers laughed at his impractical nature as he paid many coins to those he hired to search for the missing piece. He answered by saying that the river had no use for a coin, but even a small one was of inestimable value as it passed from hand to hand and many people benefited from it.

From Hideyoshi the power passed to the Tokugawa shoguns under whose leadership Japan was cut off from the rest of the world for two and a half centuries. It was not until the arrival of Commodore Perry in 1853 that she was forced to take her place in the modern world.

But long before that well documented period, the story of early Japanese history comes to a close. A collector of coins of these ancient times will find himself enriched by the knowledge of a fascinating and little known era.

Higley's Legend

(Continued from page 27)

on the 1739 coin, some think, may have been a symbolic suggestion that his venture was to be continued by his brother.

The Higley Copper, it is believed, passed for about two and sixpence. The truth about the legend VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE is really unknown. Dr. Higley was a man of propriety. Coins were scarce in those days and very much needed. Somewhere an oversupply may have developed and his other lettering—I AM GOOD COPPER—appeared apparently in defense of the superimposed value of the privately issued coin.

This eminent creator of early coins petitioned the General Court relative to his steel process, partly as follows—"he hath with great pains and costs, found out and obtained a curious art by which to convert, change or transmute common iron into good steel, sufficient for any use, and was the very first that ever performed such an operation in America, having the most perfect knowledge thereof confirmed by many experiments." His petition was granted.

Curious, indeed, as you see are the background evidences of the rather original enterprise of this progressive doctor and scientist and creator of community coinage.

No, Simsbury never became a mining district. Sporadic mining efforts were tried around the state yielding some good ore. But not in sufficient quantities. The adjacent copper mine to the Higley property, known today as Newgate Prison, is open to the public. Thousands have swarmed through the underground passages by torchlight. A few attempt this at midnight on Halloween.

The Higley Coppers represent a historical era of early American evolution. They were constructive, once abundant, oddly inscribed and produced by a determined man who made a King-sized contribution to the steel industry. He probably would not have made this discovery without his experience in minting the now fabulously considered Higley coins. Today their value is whatever you are willing to bid—if you can find any being offered to bid on.

Growth of the Mint

(Continued from page 35)

sion impossible, so in December of 1901 the building was offered at auction at \$2,000,000. The highest bid was only \$1,500,000. In March 1902 a syndicate bought the buildings at a government set price.

Meanwhile, during the year 1901 a new Mint was being constructed between 16th and 17th Streets, facing on Spring Garden. It was a block-long, three-story granite building. It was a massive building with a Roman Facade running across its front which was broken up into huge stone blocks. This building is

still in use today. Day after day an endless stream of copper, nickel and silver coins flow from its machinery. Every day of the year the Mint changes dull metal ingots into millions of dollars worth of money.

Upon entering the Mint one finds himself in a large foyer where a guard asks you to sign in and list your business. The whole foyer as well as the rest of the building is thick with armed guards.

Past the foyer is a grand marble

Another medal, designed by well known sculptor Ralph Menconi and struck by Presidential Art Medals, Inc. of Englewood, Ohio is being sold in the President's memory.

This is a great disappointment to numismatics as a whole and to Presidential Art Medals in particular. For everything but the final details had been worked out for one of the most important numismatic events in American history.

The next national meeting of the American Numismatic Association will be held in Cleveland, Ohio in August of 1964. Plans were that President Kennedy would visit the convention personally, receive a gold medal and announce there that the Presidential Art Kennedy Medal had been adopted as the official medal of next year's presidential campaign.

HIGH RELIEF

This medal's obverse shows President Kennedy in high relief with his name, and the reverse is divided in three parts representing the most important events in the President's life. At the top is the presidential

seal, at lower left PT 109 and at lower right the seal of the State of Massachusetts.

Another medal undergoing a revival of interest is the inauguration medal struck by Medallic Arts Company of New York for the Democratic Party on the occasion of President Kennedy's accession to the country's top job. This medal follows the others in design, although it uses a different portrait.

Two other medals have been struck since the President's assassination. Capitol Medals, a North Carolina firm, has issued a medal with the President's portrait on the obverse and his well known "... ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country" on the reverse.

The other firm, Regency of Winnipeg, Canada, had its medal struck in Italy. It too carries Mr. Kennedy's portrait on the obverse with the Presidential Seal on the reverse.

A third firm which calls itself HANO is issuing a presidential series of half-dollar size, trade-coin-like pieces. This series contains a Kennedy medal struck before his death.

Still another medal issued before the tragedy was the Kennedy-Day medal given to all postmasters attending the October, 1961 convention of United States Postmasters in Denver, Colorado. This piece has conjoined busts of President Kennedy and Postmaster General Day on the obverse with the reverse being used to tell the occasion of the medal's striking.

The world effects of the President's assassination are shown by the numismatic activity in other countries.

The Bavarian State Mint of Munich, Germany has struck a medal in honor of the late President for the International Coin and Medal Corporation. Made of both silver and gold and struck in eight sizes, the medal shows Mr. Kennedy's portrait in profile on the obverse while the reverse has the German inscription, "We all have lost him."

A medallion will also be struck by the Dutch and sold to benefit the Dutch Peace Corps. The Dutch Corps grew out of President Ken-

more on page 70

JEFFERSON SINGLES

| | G-VG | F | VF | | G-VG | F | VF |
|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 38-P | .20 | .25 | .35 | 47-S | .25 | .35 | .50 |
| 38-D | 1.75 | 2.00 | 2.50 | 52-D | .25 | .35 | .50 |
| 38-S | 3.40 | 4.00 | 4.75 | 49-S | .40 | .50 | .60 |
| 39-D | 6.75 | 7.50 | 8.25 | 50-P | .50 | .65 | .90 |
| 39-S | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.50 | D | 17.50 | 19.00 | 21.00 |
| 42-D | .45 | .60 | .90 | 51-S | 1.25 | 1.50 | 2.00 |
| 43-D | .65 | .80 | 1.25 | 55-P | 1.25 | 1.50 | 2.00 |
| 46-S | .30 | .35 | .50 | 58-P | .25 | .35 | |

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| 1887, | 1888, | 1889, | 1890, | 1891, | 1892, | 1893, | 1894, | 1895, | 1896, | 1897, | 1898, | 1899, | 1900, | 1901, | 1902, | 1903, | 1904, | 1905, | 1906, | 1907, | 1908, | 1909, |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

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This means our Mint Sealed Bags will have less scratches, handling, etc., which means a higher premium price for the investors when same are sold because of the coins' better condition. Since we are the only large dealers in Ottawa (near the Mint) to handle this type of business, we now invite your inquiries. Special prices to R.C.D.A. members and Numismatic Clubs affiliated with R.C.D.A.

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565 Sussex Drive Ottawa 2, Ontario, Canada

which also appears on the reverse of the Mint medal.

This coin will replace the Benjamin Franklin half dollar now in circulation. And this is the one detail in the production of the new coin which makes collectors unhappy. They wish it were a commemorative coin.

For, although the half dollar will, in a real sense, commemorate the life and untimely death of President Kennedy, to a collector a commemorative coin is one which has only limited production, which because of its relative scarcity is more desirable as a collector's item and

which will appreciate much more rapidly as an investment.

The new coins will be released through regular channels—the Federal Reserve Banks—and will be available sometime early in 1964 through local banks.

Although the U.S. half dollar is the most important recognition of the President's death, there are a great many other numismatic items collectors are purchasing during the current wave of interest.

MANY ORDERS

The Philadelphia Mint has issued a statement that its retail sales outlet has been deluged by orders

for the large bronze medal after whose designs the new coin has been patterned.

The obverse of this medal carries President Kennedy's portrait and his name. The reverse bears the presidential seal above an excerpt from a Kennedy speech: "We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival of liberty."

On either side of the inscription is a flaming torch.

These medals are three inches in diameter, weigh almost half a pound and are available for \$3 from the Philadelphia Mint.

LINCOLN CENTS

| DATE & MINT | FAIR- ABT. | GOOD | GOOD | V.G. | FINE | V.F. |
|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| 1909-VDB | .50 | .70 | .80 | .95 | 1.10 | |
| 1909-S V.D.B. | — | 127.50 | 145.00 | 165.00 | 195.00 | |
| 1910-S | — | 26.50 | 31.00 | 36.00 | 43.00 | |
| 1910-S | 2.65 | 3.15 | 3.75 | 4.50 | 6.50 | |
| 1911-D | .85 | 1.45 | 2.00 | 3.75 | 6.25 | |
| 1911-S | 6.75 | 9.00 | 10.50 | 12.50 | 15.00 | |
| 1912-D | .95 | 1.65 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 8.25 | |
| 1912-S | 3.50 | 4.50 | 5.00 | 6.50 | 9.50 | |
| 1913-D | .50 | .80 | 1.10 | 2.50 | 3.95 | |
| 1913-S | 2.40 | 3.25 | 3.75 | 4.75 | 6.00 | |
| 1914-D | 30.00 | 39.50 | 47.50 | 67.50 | 97.50 | |
| 1914-S | 3.50 | 4.50 | 5.25 | 6.75 | 9.00 | |
| 1915 | .35 | .50 | .75 | 4.50 | 7.50 | |
| 1915-D | .30 | .40 | .75 | 1.35 | 2.50 | |
| 1915-S | — | 3.60 | 4.25 | 5.00 | 6.50 | |
| 1916-S | .30 | .45 | .55 | 1.00 | 1.75 | |
| 1921-S | .50 | .75 | 1.00 | 1.50 | 4.50 | |
| 1922 Plain | WTD | WTD | WTD | WTD | WTD | |
| 1922-D | 2.65 | 3.25 | 3.75 | 6.00 | 8.50 | |
| 1923-S | .75 | 1.25 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 5.75 | |
| 1924-D | 9.00 | 12.50 | 14.50 | 17.50 | 25.00 | |
| 1924-S | .40 | .60 | .75 | 1.50 | 3.00 | |

LINCOLN CENTS

| DATE & MINT | FAIR- ABT. | GOOD | GOOD | V.G. | FINE | V.F. |
|--|---------------|------|------|--------|--------|------|
| 1926-S | 3.75 | 4.50 | 5.50 | 6.75 | 8.25 | |
| 1927-S | .25 | .35 | .50 | 1.25 | 2.00 | |
| 1928-S | .20 | .25 | .40 | .75 | 1.00 | |
| 1931 | — | .25 | .40 | .50 | .80 | |
| 1931-D | 3.50 | 4.50 | 5.50 | 6.50 | 7.50 | |
| 1931-S | — | .60 | .90 | 1.10 | 1.25 | |
| 1932 | — | .65 | .90 | 1.10 | 1.25 | |
| 1932-D | .40 | .60 | .80 | .95 | 1.25 | |
| 1933 | — | .40 | .60 | .80 | .95 | |
| 1933-D | 2.85 | 3.50 | 4.00 | 5.00 | 6.00 | |
| 1938-D | — | .30 | .35 | .50 | .60 | |
| 1938-S | — | — | .45 | .55 | .65 | |
| 1939-D | — | — | .50 | .60 | .70 | |
| 1943-S | — | — | .20 | .25 | .30 | |
| 1944-S | — | — | .20 | .25 | .30 | |
| 1945-S | — | — | .20 | .25 | .30 | |
| 1946-S | — | — | .20 | .25 | .30 | |
| 1947-S | — | — | .20 | .25 | .30 | |
| 1955 | — | — | .35 | .40 | .50 | |
| 1955 Double Strike only | — | — | — | 155.00 | 175.00 | |
| 1960 Small Date—Available in Only Uncirculated at 9.00 each. | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 1969 to 1939 Not listed above | .20 | .25 | — | — | — | |
| 1940 to 1963 Not listed above | .10 | .15 | — | — | — | |

INDIAN CENTS

| YEAR | FAIR | GOOD | V.G. | FINE |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1857 | 2.75 | 3.50 | 4.25 | 6.95 |
| 1858 Small Letters | 3.25 | 4.25 | 5.00 | 8.50 |
| 1858 Large Letters | 3.25 | 4.50 | 5.50 | 8.75 |
| 1859 | 4.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 6.75 |
| 1860 | 1.40 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 7.00 |
| 1861 | 3.95 | 6.50 | 8.00 | 12.50 |
| 1862 | — | 1.75 | 2.50 | 3.95 |
| 1863 | 1.00 | 1.50 | 2.00 | 3.50 |
| 1864 Copper Nickel | 3.50 | 5.00 | 6.50 | 11.00 |
| 1864 Bronze | 1.25 | 2.50 | 3.50 | — |
| 1864-L | 9.00 | 14.50 | 25.00 | 55.00 |
| 1865 | 1.25 | 1.75 | 2.75 | 7.00 |
| 1866 | 5.75 | 9.00 | 13.50 | 26.00 |
| 1867 | 4.95 | 8.00 | 13.50 | 26.00 |
| 1868 | 4.95 | 8.00 | 12.50 | 24.50 |
| 1869 | 8.50 | 15.00 | 25.00 | 50.00 |
| 1870 | 6.95 | 13.50 | 20.00 | 40.00 |
| 1871 | 9.75 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 49.50 |
| 1872 | 10.50 | 22.50 | 35.00 | 65.00 |
| 1873 | 3.00 | 4.50 | 6.50 | 13.00 |
| 1874 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 7.50 | 13.50 |

FLYING EAGLES

| YEAR | FAIR | GOOD | V.G. | FINE |
|--------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1875 | 2.50 | 3.75 | 7.50 | 13.50 |
| 1876 | — | .75 | 7.00 | 20.00 |
| 1877 | 85.00 | 110.00 | 137.50 | 185.00 |
| 1878 | 4.75 | 7.00 | 12.00 | 22.00 |
| 1879 | — | 2.00 | 3.00 | 5.50 |
| 1880 to 1883 | .75 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 4.00 |
| 1884 | — | 1.00 | 1.75 | 3.00 |
| 1885 | — | 2.00 | 3.50 | 5.50 |
| 1886 | — | 1.00 | 1.75 | 3.00 |
| 1887 to 1891 | .35 | .50 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| 1892 | .45 | .70 | 1.15 | 2.50 |
| 1893 | .35 | .50 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| 1894 | .85 | 1.50 | 2.75 | 6.50 |
| 1895 | — | .50 | .95 | 1.50 |
| 1896 | — | .50 | .95 | 1.50 |
| 1897 to 1900 | — | .45 | .75 | 1.25 |
| 1901 to 1907 | — | .30 | .40 | .75 |
| 1908-S | — | .40 | .75 | 1.50 |
| 1909-S | — | .80 | 1.00 | 1.50 |
| 1909-S | 85.00 | 100.00 | 110.00 | — |

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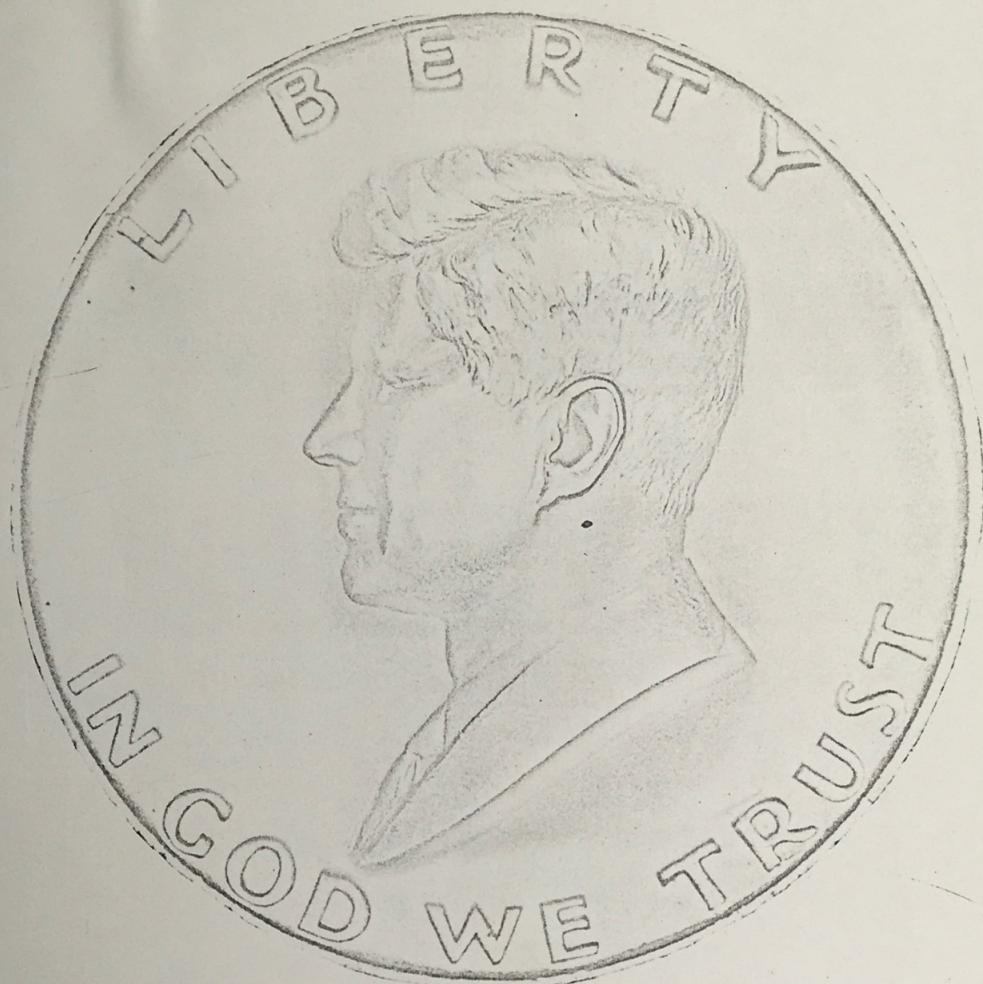
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Kennedy Numismatica

Other presidents have been honored on our coinage, but none so soon after his death as John F. Kennedy. The half dollar shown is a photographer's version of what the coin will look like. This story appeared first in the Appleton, Wisconsin, Post-Crescent.



KENNEDY



JOHNSON



DILLON



ADAMS



Reminiscences of the Creation of the Kennedy Half Dollar

SHORTLY AFTER THE tragedy of President Kennedy's death, November 22, 1963, Miss Eva Adams, the director of the mint, telephoned me at the Philadelphia mint and explained that serious consideration was being given to placing President Kennedy's portrait on a new design U. S. silver coin and that the quarter dollar, half dollar or the one dollar were under discussion.

For the design, they were weighing the merits of either a front view or a profile for the obverse and the possibility of using the president's seal of office for the reverse. From the standpoint of good composition and elegance of design the profile is much superior to any other view for the presentation of a portrait in bas-relief on a circular medal or coin. This is almost a universally held opinion among designers and artists and it was strongly recommended here that a profile be used.

A day or so later, about November 27, Miss Adams called again and informed me that the half dollar had been chosen for the new design, that Mrs. Kennedy did not want to replace Washington's portrait on the quarter dollar. Also it had been decided to use the profile portrait that appears on our mint list medal for President Kennedy, and the presi-

dent's seal that has been used on the reverse of this and other mint medals.

Since the Franklin half dollar had not been issued for the statutory 25 year period, new legislative authority would be required. However, we were to begin immediately because they wanted to start striking the new half dollar in January, 1964, only about four weeks away. This seemed almost an impossibility, but the fact that we had on hand large models for both sides made the problem less insurmountable. There was still a great amount of work to be done, all stops were out. Mr. Gasparro (Frank Gasparro, then assistant and now chief sculptor of the U. S. mint) tackled the reverse and the obverse became my problem.

Starting back with the original plastilene model of President Kennedy's portrait, which he had approved, the coat was deleted and the periphery was changed to bring the head nearer center and to decrease the size of the circle in relation to the portrait. The background was reshaped to provide the required depressed field necessary for proper coinage. The inscription and date required by law were established.

On December 10, White House press releases were issued by President Johnson stating the reasons and

December 10, 1963

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON (EST)

NOTICE: There should be no premature release of this Message to the Congress, nor should its contents be paraphrased, alluded to or hinted at in earlier stories. There is a total embargo on this speech until 12:00 noon December tenth, which includes any and all references to any material in this message.

Pierre Salinger
Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I hereby submit to the Congress a draft of a proposed bill which would provide for the coinage of 50-cent pieces with the likeness of the late John Fitzgerald Kennedy. With the adoption of this proposal each of the five denominations now being produced by the Mint, i.e., one-cent through fifty-cent pieces, would have the likeness of a President on the obverse of the coin.

The consent of the Congress is required to make this change in view of the provisions of section 3510 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (31 U.S.C. 276), which provides that no change in the design of a coin shall be made oftener than once in twenty-five years. The present design was adopted in 1948.

If the legislation is enacted, the Treasury Department plans to use the likeness of the late President Kennedy which is being used on a "Presidential series" medal now being manufactured and sold at the Philadelphia Mint. The design of this medal was approved personally by the late President. Mint artists would prepare an appropriate reverse for the coin.

I strongly recommend the enactment of this proposed legislation at the earliest possible date in order that the likeness of President Kennedy will appear on the 50-cent coins issued at the beginning of the calendar year 1964.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
December 10, 1963

(OVER)

December 10, 1963

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today asked Congress for legislation authorizing the Treasury Department to mint new fifty-cent pieces with the likeness of the late President John F. Kennedy.

The United States Mint, which operates under the direction of the Treasury Department, must have legislative authority to make this change since the present design of the Benjamin Franklin half-dollar piece has been in circulation less than 25 years. If the design of a coin has been in effect longer than this period the Treasury can, on its own, change this design.

Since the assassination of President Kennedy, many Americans have written requesting that his portrait be placed on a United States coin. If the Congress accedes to this request, the new half-dollar pieces will have President Kennedy's portrait on the face of the coin and an adaptation of the Seal of the President of the United States as the central motif on the reverse side. Both the Seal and the portrait, which was sculptured by Gilroy Roberts, Chief Engraver of the United States Mint, appear on President Kennedy's commemorative medal. The new half-dollar will also carry the inscription, LIBERTY, IN GOD WE TRUST and the year of coinage on its face, while on the reverse side will appear UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, HALF DOLLAR and E PLURIBUS UNUM.

Several factors entered into the selection of the fifty-cent piece to carry the likeness of the late President: It is the only subsidiary coin that does not bear the portrait of a President; a new production of half-dollars had been scheduled to begin in January; more half-dollars could be struck than if the design were used on a silver dollar. Since there is a limited amount of silver held by the Treasury for coinage, the country would benefit by being able to put into circulation more than twice as many coins for the silver used. The cost of making a new coin would be nominal, since the design already exists and the work connected with making new dies would be accomplished within the Treasury Department.

The new fifty-cent pieces could be expected to be in circulation within several weeks after authorization.

#. # #

THE UNITED STATES MINT
Philadelphia 30, Pa.

From the
Superintendent's Desk:

THE 1959 LINCOLN ONE-CENT.

So many inquiries come to us each day regarding the new reverse side of the LINCOLN coin, - that it seems appropriate to share with you the Sunday morning release of December 21, 1958, by James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President:

"THE WHITE HOUSE"

President Eisenhower approved today the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury Robert B. Anderson for the minting of a new reverse side of the one-cent Lincoln coin as a feature of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial observance. Production of the changed coin will begin January second.

In recommending the change on the Lincoln cent, the Secretary of the Treasury and Department officials have been working with the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, of which Senator John Sherman Cooper, of Kentucky, is Chairman.

The portrait of Lincoln (by Victor D. Brenner) on the face of the cent will remain unchanged. The new reverse will portray the Lincoln Memorial, as viewed from the front of the entrance. Above the Memorial is the motto, "E. Pluribus Unum", and above this, following the curve of the border, the words, "United States of America"; below the Memorial, also following the curve, will appear the denomination "One Cent." These inscriptions are required by law to appear on United States coins.

The new permanent design was done by Frank Gasparro, of the Philadelphia Mint, and selected by Secretary Anderson and the Director of the Mint, W. H. Brett.

Both Philadelphia and Denver Mints, which will begin production of the changed coin early in January, will have a supply for distribution on Lincoln's Birthday, February twelfth.

More than 25 billion Lincoln cents of the present design have been minted since its adoption in 1909."

.....

The 1959 U. S. PROOF SET will include the new 1959 Cent. (There will be no strikes of the previous design of the one-cent - either of regular coinage or for Proof Sets) - only with the new reverse!

NO Lincoln cents - of regular coinage (or of any other denomination) are, at any time, obtainable from the U. S. Mint. Shipments are made upon order of the Bureau of the Mint in Washington, D. C., to designated Federal Reserve Banks, and they, in turn, service their Member Banks. Only U. S. PROOF COINS for the current year are obtainable from the Philadelphia Mint.

If your inquiry carried with it a remittance - and many did, - it is herewith returned, with the foregoing explanation. We hope you will not mind this Form, - it is a necessary time-saver! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

(Mrs.) Rae V. Biester
Superintendent

January 2, 1959.

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13th February, 1973.

Mr. Frank Gasparro,
216 Westwood Park Drive,
Havertown,
Pennsylvania 19083,
U.S.A.

Dear Frank,

We are very grateful to you for your most helpful letter which confirms our impressions.

I am writing to Mr. Rosner and we are able to make reductions on our Demonstration Machine. We are prepared to make plastic patterns or accept them whichever is preferable.

Incidentally, we do Paul Vincze's work and did the 6 inch x 4 inch Moses reduction for him.

Our kind wishes to you both,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Denis' above a diagonal line.

← To open cut here

Sender's name and address: Mr. Denis R. Cooper,

86 Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey
ENGLAND.

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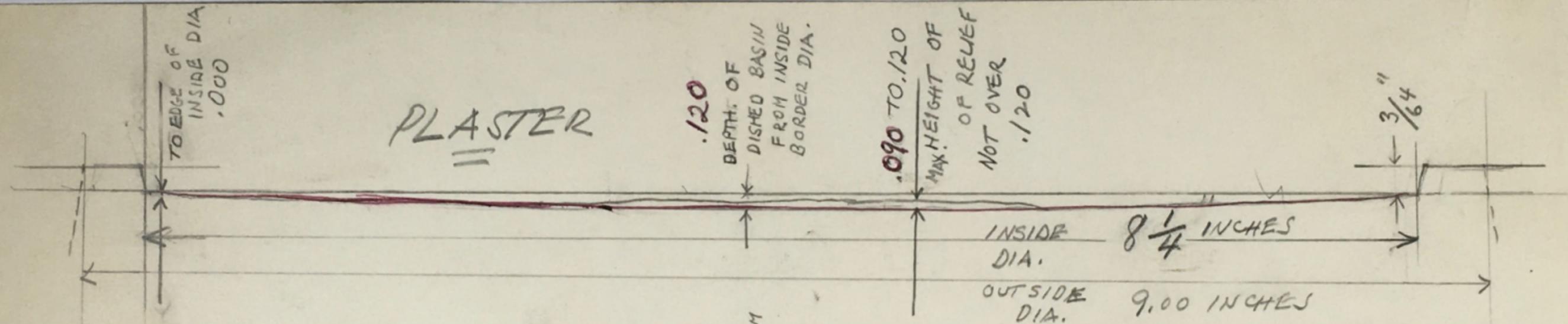
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Mr. Frank Gasparro,

216 Westwood Park Drive,
Havertown,

Pennsylvania 19083,
U.S.A.



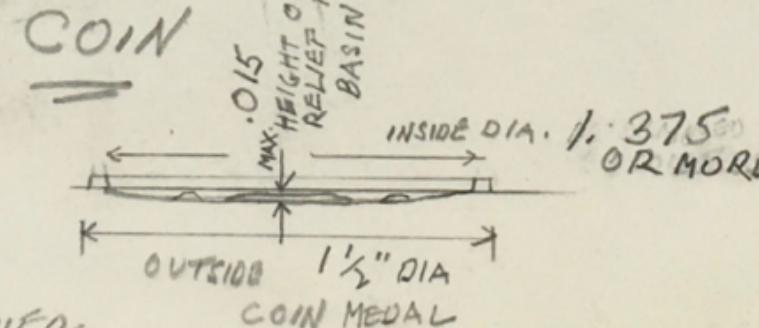
RATIO - ~~6~~ TO 1

INSIDE DIA. OF MODEL 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ INCHES

INSIDE DIA. OF COIN - 1.375

DETERMINED BY COINER

OUTSIDE DIA. OF COIN 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " COINER



MAX. HEIGHT OF RELIEF .015
ON COIN

ADD BOTH SIDES .030
ON COIN.

MAX. HEIGHT OF RELIEF .090
ON MODEL

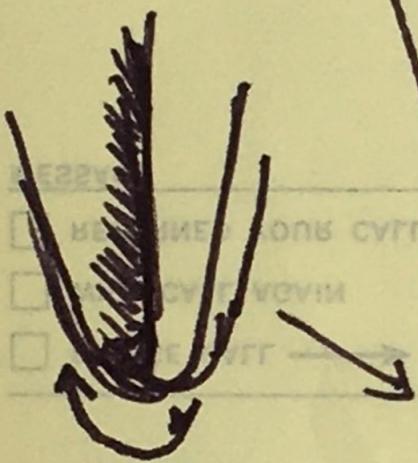
RECEIVED RA

TO

AMT

1/8"

FOUR
12°
ANGLES



CARBOLOGY
CARBIDE
TOOL

OF
DIRECTION
SHARPENING

TO:

03 CMT
MUNICIPAL

MEMORANDUM OF CALL

TO: _____

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization) _____

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE _____

RECEIVED BY _____

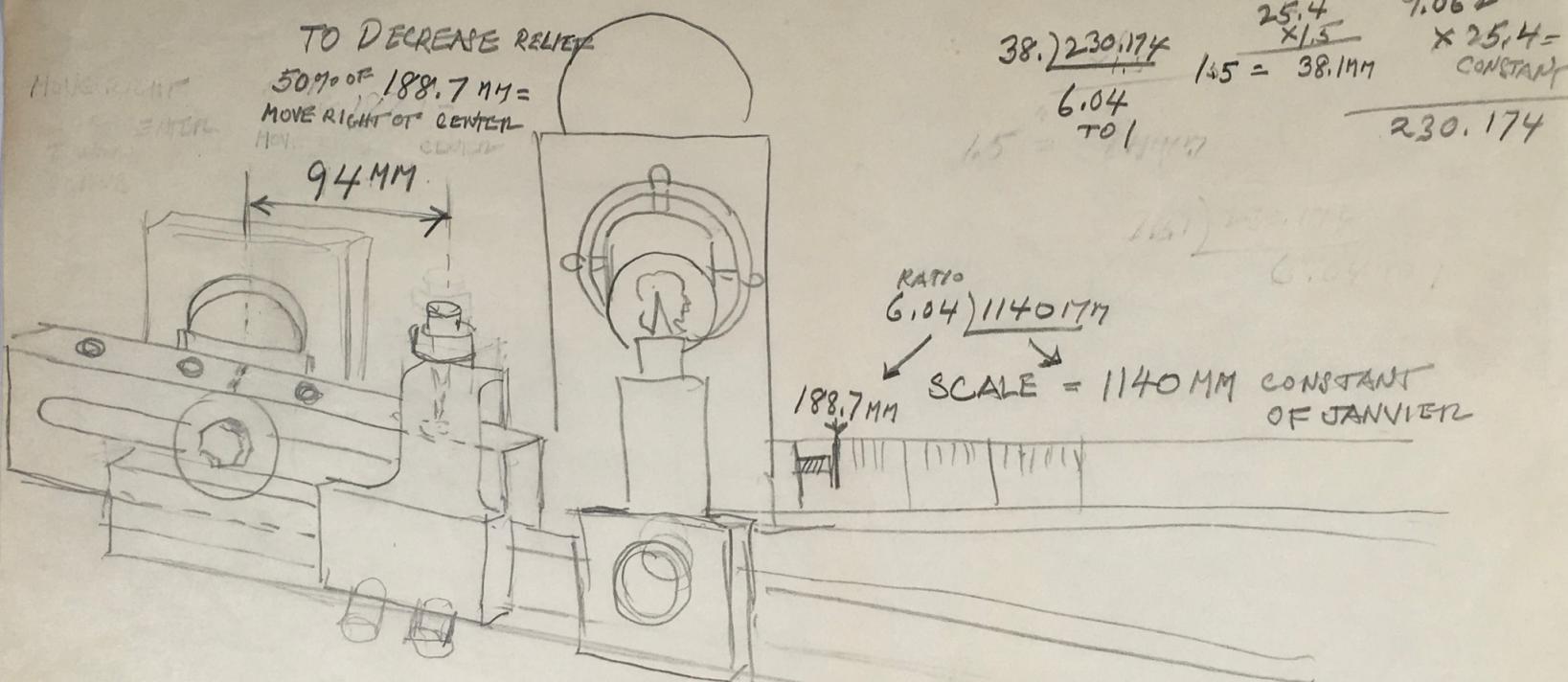
DATE 7/8/69

TIME

RATIO = 6.04 TO 1

1 MM = .039

DIA. MODEL = 9.062 INCHES
1.500
DIA. MEDAL



RATIO
6.04) 1140.174

188.7 MM
SCALE = 1140 MM CONSTANT
OF JANVIER

6.04) 180 RELIEF ON GALVANO 62

.029

50% OFF = .0145

THE THEREFORE
50% OF 188.7 = 94 MM

RATIO = 6.04 TO 1

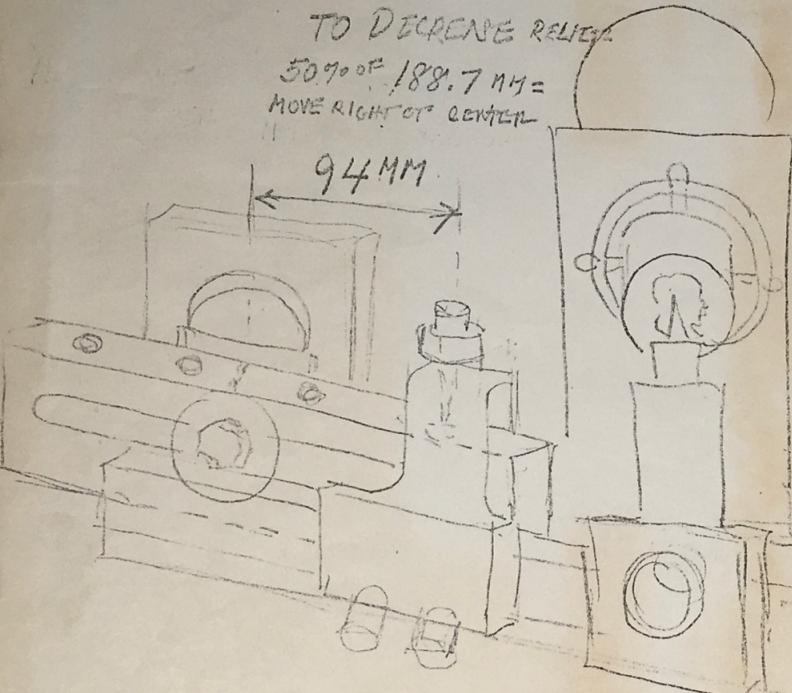
1 MM = .039

DIA. MODEL = 9.062 INCH

1.500

DIA. MODEL

TO DECREASE RELIEF
50.70 OF 188.7 MM =
MOVE RIGHT OF CENTER



6.04 / 180 RELIEF ON GALVANO

.029

50.70 OF = .0145

THE THEREFORE

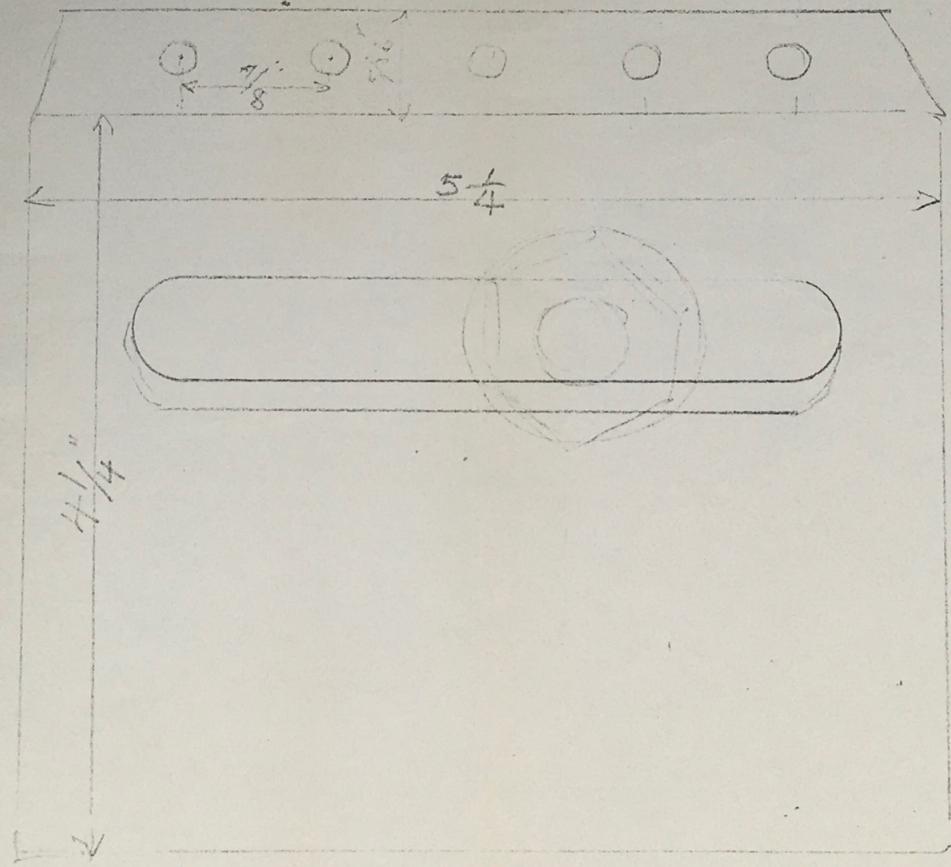
50.70 OF 188.7 = 94 MM

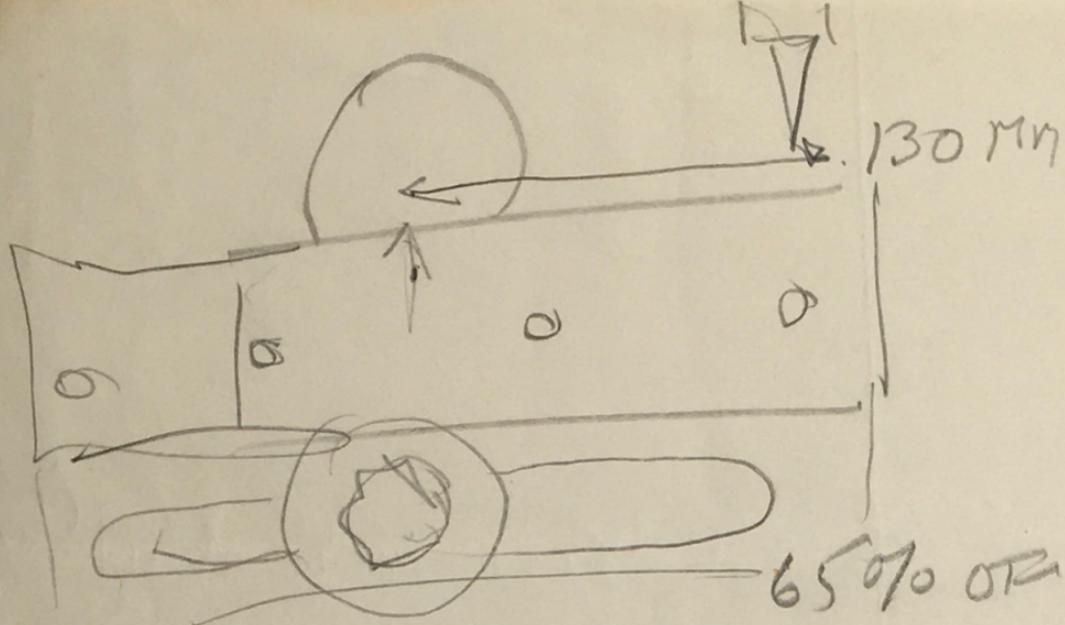
$$\frac{38.1230.174}{6.04 \text{ TO } 1} \quad \begin{array}{l} 25.4 \text{ CONSTANT } 9.062'' \\ \times 1.5 \\ \hline 38.144 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 25.4 \\ \times 25.4 \\ \hline \text{CONSTANT} \end{array}$$

$$230.174$$

RATIO
6.04)1140.174

188.7 MM ✓ SCALE = 1140 MM CONSTANT
OF JANVIER





$$65\% \text{ OR } 200.7 \text{ MN} = 130 \text{ MN}$$

5.6) .168 HEIGHT OF GALL.

168

5.6) 168

.030 HEIGHT OR RELAYE

reduce 6580)

.030
x.65

150

180

019.50

030
-.019
.011

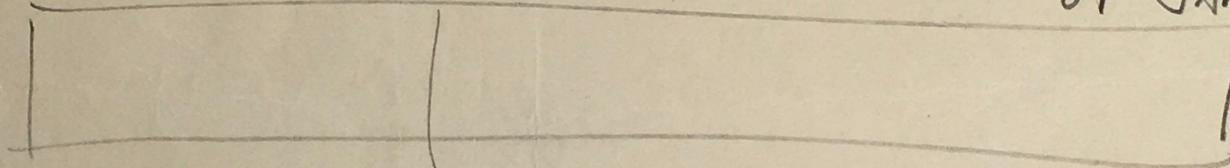
$$1 \text{ MN} = 0.39$$

$$3.937$$
$$3.937$$

$$205 \text{ MM} = 1. \text{D. or } 8.070 \frac{2.194}{8.070}$$

200.7

1140 MM - CONSTANT
OF JANVICA



$$1.420 = 36.1 \text{ MN} = 1. \text{D.}$$

$$36.1 \text{ MN} \left(\frac{205 \text{ MM}}{5.6 \text{ RATIO}} \right)$$

$$5.6 \left(\frac{1140 \text{ MM}}{200.7} \right)$$

125
062

1/4

Hamilton

M; v+

SUGGESTIONS

(1) 10TH CHIEF ENGRAVER
OF THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNS NEW ORLEANS MINT
MEDAL FOR GRAND OPENING
CEREMONIES.

(2) —————
HOMAGE TO THE —
3RD CHIEF ENGRAVER
C. GOBRECHT 1840-44
4TH CHIEF ENGRAVER 1844-
1869. J. B. LONGACRE
6TH CHIEF ENGRAVER 1880 -
CHARLES BARBER TO 1909
(U.S. COINAGE DESIGNERS
STRUCK AT NEW ORLEANS)
DURING THEIR MINT
TENURE
MEDAL DESIGNED BY
10TH CHIEF ENGRAVER
F. GASPARONE

(3) —————
NEW YORK BICENTENNIAL
MEDAL TO TIE IN
(N.Y.C. CITY LEADER) ALEXANDER HAMILTON —
THIS MEDAL TO BE
(10TH CHIEF ENGR) DESIGNED BY R. C. POP
N.Y. CEREMONIES.

SUGGESTIONS

1. PLAN FOR PUBLICITY

6 WEEK NOTICE - NOV. 15 - CONSIDERING RELEASE AND

A (RESIGNATION JAN. 1. - CUT OFF DATE NOV. 15)

1. PLAN FOR PUBLICITY - (6 WEEK NOTICE - NOV. 15)

A. NEW ORLEANS MINT 1838

PRESS STRIKING OF FIRST MEDALS
PHOTO COVERAGE

10TH CHIEF ENGRAVER DESIGNS NEW ORLEANS
MINT MEDAL FOR GRAND OPENING CEREMONIES
HOMAGE TO -

3RD CHIEF ENGRAVER - C. GOBRUSCH 1830-44

4TH CHIEF ENGRAVER - J. B. LONGACRE - 1844 - 1869

6TH CHIEF ENGRAVER CHAR. E. BARBER
1880-1909

THEIR COINAGE STRUCK AT NEW ORLEANS MINT
DURING THEIR TENURE 1838 TO

B. NEW YORK BICENTENNIAL CEREMONIES

MEDALS TO HONOR ALEXANDER HAMILTON, SECRETARY OF TREAS
DESIGNED BY F. GASPARETTO U.S. MINT ENGRAVER

C. 1ST COMMEMORATIVE SERIES - (MEMBERSHIP)

2. - WORK SCHEDULES

1. PHILA TO CHICAGO

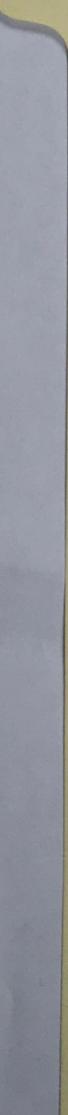
2. SALARIES & ROYALTIES

3. INCOME-TAX-PLAN

4. PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION AND SUPERVISION

W

Gold



GASPARRO AND THE GOLD MEDALLIONS

By Ed Reiter

FRANK: This is a copy of the story I wrote for Numismatic News. I hope you like it. Patt and I had a very nice afternoon with you in Philadelphia, and greatly appreciate your kindness and hospitality. Please let me know if ever I can return the favor.

Ed

Within a few weeks, the U.S. Mint will start striking gold medallions honoring American artists. And when the first specimens roll off the presses, they'll pay silent tribute not only to the artists they portray, but also to the artist who designed them.

Like so many other important Mint projects in recent years, this latest venture incorporates the craftsmanship of Frank Gasparro, the Mint's chief sculptor-engraver.

"This particular project has been a real challenge," the self-effacing sculptor confides. "I had to make a number of adjustments; working with gold involves technical problems you don't have with other metals. It took a lot of time, but I think we've resolved them now."

(more)

GASPARRO AND THE GOLD MEDALLIONS

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For one thing, he explains, gold---while soft---is a very dense metal, and therefore doesn't lend itself to striking in high relief.

"The relief has to be very low," he relates, "because lead: gold just won't move. It's like ~~XXXX~~ once you strike it, it's through---no matter how much pressure you apply. The displacement of material has to be just right, so everything comes up in one sock. If that doesn't happen ~~XXXX~~ and you ~~XXXXXX~~ more pressure, ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ the dies will simply crack.

"Of course you can anneal it, then strike a second blow--- the people would have to but then ~~XXXXXX~~ pay a high cost for the manufacturing. And just imagine annealing ~~XXXXXX~~ pieces. It would take a couple of years to do the job."

lesson

This particular ~~XXXXXX~~ was dramatized, he notes, by the problems the Mint experienced in 1907, when it tried to strike Augustus Saint-Gaudens' double eagle in high relief. The high-relief ~~XXXX~~ coins were stunning---but after breaking numerous dies, Mint officials decided to ~~XXXX~~ the relief.

"I'm learning a lesson that goes back to 1907," Gasparro remarks. "I should have realized that. But we never had that experience, you see; we never worked with gold."

Production of U.S. gold coins had been discontinued for ~~XXXX~~ almost a decade, he ~~XXXX~~ points out, when his own Mint career began back in 1942.

(more)

GASPARRO AND THE GOLD MEDALLIONS

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"A lot of articles have been written about the Saint-Gaudens coin," he comments, "but technically speaking, nothing was left through the years. There was nothing in our records to let an engraver know just what your problems were with gold."

Gasparro did work with gold when the Mint produced the official national Bicentennial medal for the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration---a medal he himself designed. And through the years, he notes, the first example of almost every Mint medal has been struck in gold as a presentation piece.

"But with only one piece," he observes, "you could strike and anneal, then strike and anneal again. You didn't have to worry about production."

A particular problem arose, Gasparro says, in the preparation of the gold medallion honoring singer ~~XX~~ Marian Anderson. This medallion, a half-ounce bullion piece, is almost identical in design to a Mint medal issued ~~XXXXXX~~ in ~~bronze~~ ^{a little more than a year ago.} But whereas the bronze ~~XXXX~~ version proved to be entirely satisfactory, a small but troubling snag emerged when ~~XXXXXX~~ test runs began on the gold.

"Miss ~~XXXXXX~~ Anderson's nose wasn't getting quite enough metal," ^{Gasparro} explains, "and as a result it came out with a shiny, powdered look. It could have gone through that way, but I was determined to fix it. You want to give people their money's worth; you don't want to give them a medal with a shiny nose."

(more)

GASPARRO AND THE GOLD MEDALLIONS

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The problem was corrected, he says, by slightly reducing the relief of the medallion's reverse, thereby freeing enough additional metal to bring out the details of the nose.

The Anderson ~~XXXXXX~~ medal's design was approved by the singer herself.

"With Marian Anderson," Gasparro says, "I was lucky. I went to see her, spent many hours with her and got to like her---and this made it easy to come up with a pretty good portrait. We were born about a mile apart, in South Philadelphia, so we had a lot in common.

"For the medal's reverse, I wanted to show her standing before and singing ~~XXX~~ a group of children. 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands'---that was going to be my theme. But she didn't want her portrait on both sides; she told me one portrait was enough. So she ~~XXXXXX~~ the idea to ~~XXX~~ just the world and two hands. And that's what we ended up using."

While fashioning the reverse, the sculptor suddenly had an unnerving thought: "I thought to myself, 'What if this comes out ~~XXXXXX~~ looking like a basketball player, with a basketball in his hands?' So I took special pains to avoid that kind of thing. I had the hands reaching down from the top, as well as cupping the world from ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{beneath."}

(more)

GASPARRO AND THE GOLD MEDALLIONS

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The Commission of Fine Arts, which passes judgment on U.S. coin and medal designs, apparently had reservations about the Marian Anderson ~~XXXXXX~~ piece. According to an internal Mint commission members memorandum, ~~XXXXXX~~ felt the design of the original Mint medal "was acceptable primarily because it was approved by Miss Anderson, but they would have preferred a different rendition." As for the fact that the gold medallion retains the basic design of the earlier medal, the memo states that "when appropriate ~~XXXX~~ artwork is available which has already been executed into plasters, galvanos, dies, etc., there is not only a time savings but also a cost savings factor that we have to consider."

Gasparro had to start from scratch in preparing the design for the other gold medallion due to be issued this year---a one-ounce piece honoring noted painter Grant ~~XXXXXX~~ Wood. And as is his custom, he approached the task with painstaking attention to detail.

"When you work on a subject, you have to get involved with the person you're portraying," he remarks. "You have to almost live with him; you have to even notice how he put on ~~XXXXXX~~ extra weight ~~XXXX~~ through the years. It's like a biography; you are almost writing the person's ~~XXXXXX~~ life story. So when I prepare a portrait, I go back to the town where the person was born and talk to the friends he ~~XXXX~~ knew---and in that way I pick up important little details that ~~XXXXXX~~ make my portrait more true to life."

(more)

GASPARRO AND THE GOLD MEDALLIONS

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Wood himself died in 1942, so this time the sculptor did not have the advantage of modeling his subject from life. He did receive an enormous boost, ~~xx~~ however, when relatives of ~~XXXXXX~~ provided him with a book on the painter's life. The book---"This Is Grant Wood Country"---contained a wealth of photographs of the painter and his work, and ~~XXXXXX~~ these enabled Gasparro to give his portrait added depth of detail.

One of the photographs also suggested a suitable ~~XXXXXX~~ reverse design for the gold medallion: a portrait of Wood painting "American Gothic," the work that has become his most famous.

"The obverse---the ~~XXXXXX~~ bust of Wood---was no problem," Gasparro says. "I had a lot of photographs, and I think ~~XXXXXX~~ I managed to capture the proper look. But the reverse was a different story. How do you make a painting look like a painting? You can't put ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{it} in relief; then it won't be a painting any more. ~~xx~~ And how do you show the art work on that canvas when you're working with such a small area?

"One good thing," he adds, "is that most people know this particular painting; they know it's a painting. And they know those two characters that it ~~XXXX~~ shows. So that made my job much ~~XXXXXX~~ easier."

Though he never met Grant Wood, Gasparro feels a kinship with the ~~XXX~~ painter and his work.

(more)

GASPARRO AND THE GOLD MEDALLIONS

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"I found the man fascinating," he says. "I lived through the period when he did his most famous work---the ~~WW~~ period of the Depression. And I worked through that period. I knew the era; I knew the times---hard times. We had a great influx of French art at that time---modern art from Europe. Anything European was important. The only way an American artist could make out was to go to Europe and come back as a success. Yet Grant ~~WEXWEX~~ ~~WW~~ Wood was American through and through. He didn't put on any act; he showed the American ~~WEXWEXWEX~~ countryside. And his work was truly American."

Some have suggested that Wood's selection for the gold medallion series---especially for one of the ~~WEXWEXWEX~~ very first issues---was an odd one. Gasparro doesn't share that view.

"I never thought about that," the sculptor says. "As a rule, artists are unsung heroes---so any time an artist has a ~~WEX~~ chance to be sung, I say more power to him."

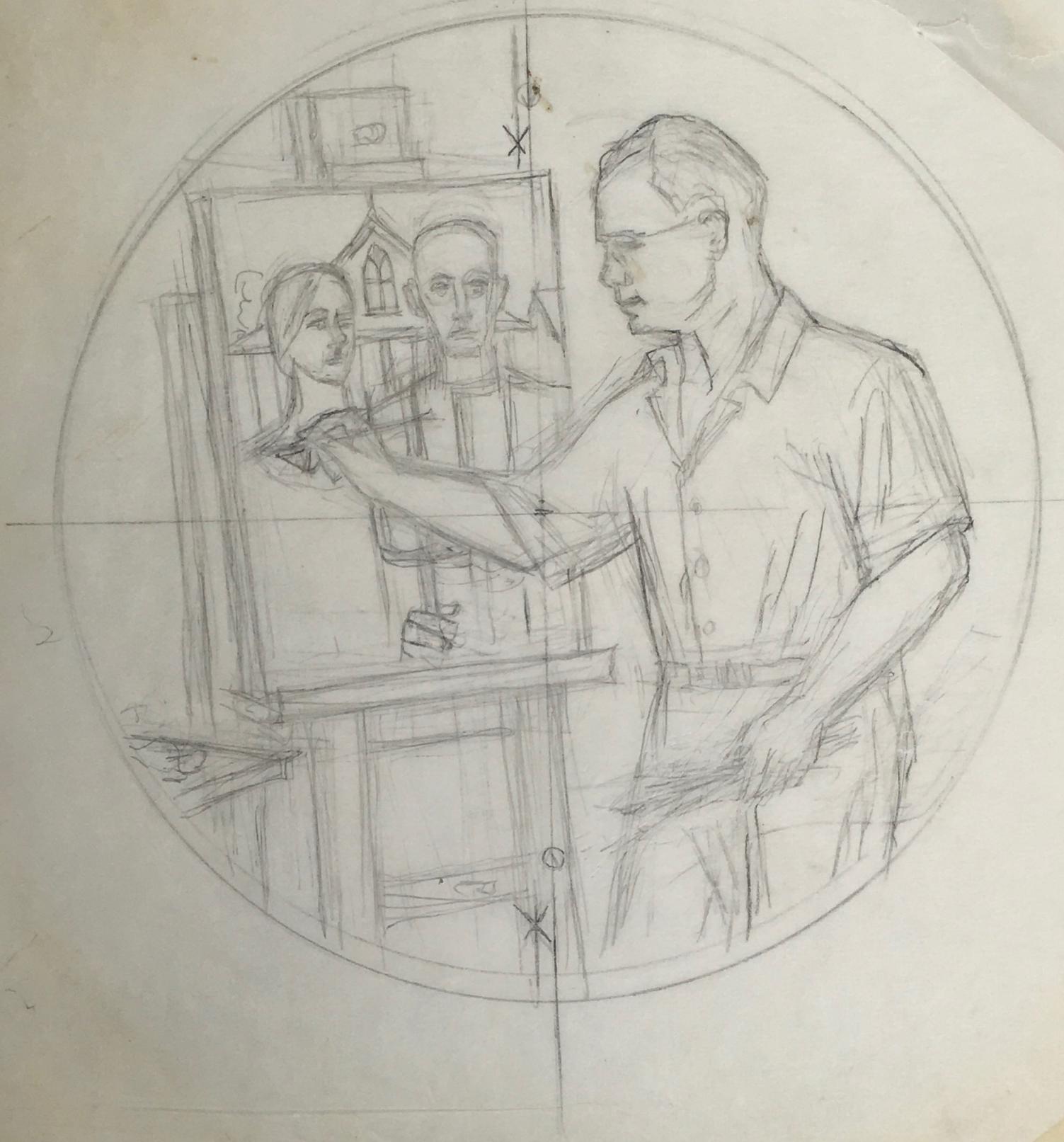
Frank Gasparro himself seldom has been "sung" beyond the narrow confines of the numismatic hobby. These latest works bring added luster, though, to a body of work that already stands as a most impressive monument to his career.

~~WEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEXWEX~~

To those in the hobby who do sing his praises, he deserves a medal of his own.

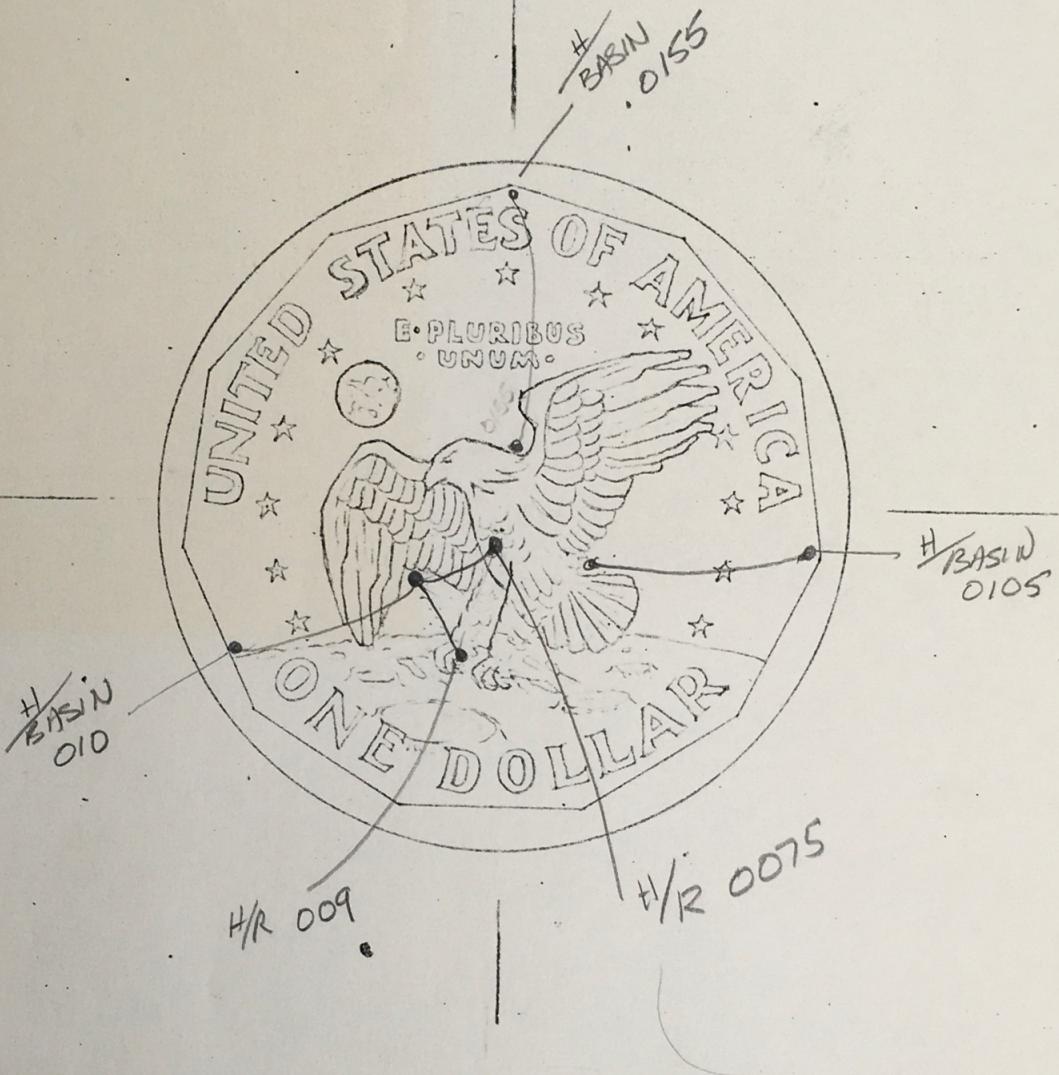
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MEASUREMENTS
FROM DIE

H/B 0155
H/R 009

A law to warm the hearts of collectors

By Henri Sault
Inquirer Coin Writer

One of the small legislative items to pass in the closing days of the congressional session is a major one for collectors. The new law will require the treasury to sell a part of its gold reserves annually in the form of commemorative medals.

The law will go into effect Oct. 1, 1979, providing that there is no presidential veto, and will represent the government's tacit approval of Americans' right to own gold. Opposition to the idea has been strong from the treasury itself, and similar bills had failed in Congress. This one rode in as an amendment to the general banking bill that cleared all hurdles late last month.

The issue of gold sales has been an emotional one. Rep. James Leach of Iowa, sponsor of the successful amendment, said treasury sales of gold in the past have had a harmful effect on the economy since almost all of it has been bought by European investors. Americans who buy gold coins for investment have found it easier to buy the Krugerrand minted in South Africa, thereby helping a political entity that is anathema to many Americans. In either case dollars or gold flow out of the country.

Coins



Turks and Caicos Islands
front of silver proof coin

The gold medallion plan will be experimental. Just how large the market will be for gold is unknown. The first year's sale will offer 1 million ounces. After that, the market will determine the volume.

The legislation will insure that the first medal will carry the image of singer Marian Anderson on the half-ounce issue and artist Grant Wood

on the one-ounce strike. Subsequent years will see Mark Twain and Willa Cather honored, and architect Frank Lloyd Wright and trumpeter Louis Armstrong in the third year. Alexander Calder and Robert Frost are listed for the fourth year, with actress Helen Hayes and novelist John Steinbeck in the fifth.

The legislation will give collectors the first commemoratives in a generation and the first commemorative gold issue since the Sesquicentennial \$2.50 coins of 1926. The medals will be sold at the price of gold plus the cost of manufacture and distribution.

The issue of American gold medals will heighten competition. Investment counselors have been saying that buyers should balance investments among old American coins, bullion in some form (Krugerrands, for example) and a few contemporary issues. Countries offering heavy gold coins now at prices that seem to indicate a substantial profit to the issuing treasury will have to trim their profits to match medals if they hope to attract American buyers.

The medals will have specific value based on weight and so will rival the Krugerrand in liquidity. Some of

the small countries that have issued gold coins in the past have refused to recognize them as legal tender, regardless of their advertising, and so made them poor investments, even near-frauds. Medallic competition will be healthy.

There's a right time to take it

Hsueh Douglas has been playing since he was 6, when he got interested while watching his father play. After he showed his interest in the game, his dad taught him the basics.

Douglas enjoys going to school (now in the fourth grade), and his favorite subject is math. "What do you expect from a bridge player?" he

a club to lead a heart. "There comes a time in every man's life," South intoned, "when he must take the finesse, the whole finesse, and nothing but the finesse."

This weak whimsy got him nowhere. He lost the finesse to the king of hearts, and West could safely return either a heart or a club. Sooner or later South would go down when he lost a second heart trick.

"You were cold for four spades without a finesse," dummy complained. "I don't blame you, but if I could catch the man who taught you to finesse. . . ."

The threat remained unfinished, but North pointed out that South could make the game by leading the ace and then a low heart. West would have to play the king, and South's queen would be good.

"No wonder they call you a dummy," South snorted. "One peek may be worth two fineses, but an honest man has to lose the finesse and go down."

Of course, the cleverest analysts in the world know that South picked the wrong time to lose the heart finesse.

After ruffing the third diamond and drawing trumps, South should take the top clubs and ruff a club. Then he must lead the ace of hearts!

After this strange play South leads a trump to the queen in order to return a heart from dummy.

If East has the king, South will win a trick with the queen of hearts. This delayed finesse is just as effective as the ordinary finesse on the first round of the suit.

South's queen will lose if West has the king of hearts, but South still makes the contract if West has the singleton or doubleton king. In the actual hand, West must return a club or a diamond after taking the king of hearts. Dummy ruffs while South discards his last heart.

A pocket guide to bridge, written by Alfred Shelnwoold, is available for \$1.25, plus a stamped, self-addressed long envelope. Send to Shelnwoold on Bridge, in care of The Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 1000, Los Angeles, Calif. 90053.

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♦ Q 5 3 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ K 6 4
♣ K 4 3

WEST

♦ 8 6
♥ K 7
♦ Q J 10 9 2
♣ J 8 7 5

EAST

♦ 7
♥ J 10 9 8 4
♦ A 8 7
♣ Q 10 9 2

SOUTH

♠ A K J 10 9 4
♥ A Q 2
♦ 5 3
♣ A 6

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ Q

DN

1/2 PRICE



Chief Engraver of the United States Frank Gasparro poses with the designs he has created for the Grant Wood gold medallion (see "Coin World" Feb. 20, pages 1,3), the first one ounce issue in the American Arts Commemorative Series. Wood is shown creating his famous painting "American Gothic" on the reverse of the gold medallion. Ordering instructions for the gold medallions will be released later in the year.

Prize honors Mint's Gasparro

Frank Gasparro, Chief Engraver at the U.S. Mint and designer of the one-ounce Grant Wood and half-ounce Marian Anderson American Art gold medallions, was awarded the Percy M. Owens Memorial prize for a Distinguished Pennsylvania Artist by the Fellowship of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts at a ceremony held on Feb. 22.

The event took place at the opening of the Academy's annual exhibition at Peale House, 1811 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia.

Gasparro also is credited with the design of the Susan B. Anthony dollar; the Eisenhower dollar, which preceded it, and the reverses of the Kennedy half dollar and the Lincoln Memorial cent, as well as many Mint List medals released in the last two decades.

He is an alumnus of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts School, and won two European traveling scholarships while he was a student there.

The half-ounce American Arts medallion is a reproduction of the gold medal author-

ized by the Congress to be presented to Miss Anderson in 1978, and Gasparro recounted to *Coin World* the keen interest which the world-famous black contralto maintained in the medal's design, especially that of the reverse.

Visiting Miss Anderson at her Danbury, Conn., home, Gasparro said he learned quickly of the diva's keen interest in the spiritual, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," which formed the subject of the reverse design of her medal.

"Of the many rough drawings I made in her home, she chose the 'World' theme," Gasparro said: "Then it was decided that I place 'Unity God's Way' somewhere in the design. It was her idea to get people together through singing spirituals."

Upon completion of the reverse design, Gasparro said he turned over its execution to Matthew Peloso of the Mint engraving staff, who "did a fine job for me."

Gasparro said he felt especially honored and pleased when he and his wife were in-

vited by Miss Anderson to be present at the White House presentation ceremony. "I hope the public will accept this gold medal favorably," he said: "I wish the same for the

Grant Wood gold medallion, showing America's famous painter of 'American Gothic'."

The Fellowship of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine

★Please turn to page 13

SPECIAL Inside COIN WORLD

Bridal coins vanishing

GREAT BRITAIN soon will demonetize the sixpence, traditional charm for brides and folklore. Page 76

SUSAN B GETS second wind, figures indicate as the minidollar pushes hard to become circulating coin Page 81

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IND.
JUNE, 1980

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U.S. GOLD

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Gasparro redesigns Wood medal

American artist Grant Wood disappeared from the reverse of the first one-ounce gold medallion in the planned American Arts Commemorative Series. The new design (left), created by Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint Frank Gasparro, features Wood's most famous painting, "American Gothic," a rendition of an elderly American farm couple. The obverse features a portrait of Wood. The medallions are not available at this time; details will be published as they become available.

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Wood, Anderson Medal Designs Unveiled

Photographs of the designs of the one-ounce and half-ounce gold medallions to be struck by the Bureau of the Mint at the West Point Bullion Depository as part of the American Arts Commemorative series program have been released by the Mint. The one-ounce piece bears a likeness of Iowa artist Grant Wood on the obverse and of Wood at work on his most famous painting, "American Gothic," on the reverse. On the obverse of the half-ounce medallion a likeness of singer Marian Anderson is featured. The reverse shows a pair of hands cradling the globe. Except for a collaborative effort on the Anderson medallion reverse design with Matthew Peloso, the medallions are the work of Frank Gasparro, Mint chief engraver. Gasparro will discuss his work on the medallions in an exclusive interview with Ed Reiter, Special News Correspondent, that will appear next week. The Mint tentatively plans to begin accepting orders for the two bullion pieces sometime in June. At that time, order forms will be available at post offices around the country and a special toll-free number will be set up to inform the public about prices, which, according to a Mint spokesman, will be the bullion value plus a small charge to cover manufacturing costs.

anyone care to venture a guess on the premium the Mint will impose on the American Arts medals? We'd bet it will be a whopper compared to the premiums on Krugerrands, Franklin Mint gold pieces and other bullion-type issues.

How about paper money? Because of its heavy workload, printing more and more inflated currency, naturally, will the Bureau of Engraving & Printing succumb to the pressure and let great quantities of inverted serial number and blank-back notes slip out?

Another area where big news may be waiting to break is the national medal issue honoring John Wayne. If President Carter ever gets around to presenting the Congress-authorized gold medal to Wayne's family, then the Mint can begin shipping bronze versions of the medal to buyers throughout the country. It must be difficult for an incumbent Democratic President to be saddled with the responsibility of honoring a staunch Republican during an election year. Doesn't the Federal Trade Commission have a regulation about how long mail orders can be held up before purchasers have to be offered their money back?

No matter what happens in the 1980s, and beyond, the *News* will continue to bring our readers the most timely coverage of newsworthy developments. Because of our Wednesday deadline for editorial material, the *News* often can cover a story on a hobby event by telephone or Teletype on Wednesday and have it into the hands of most of our Midwestern readers by Saturday. By Monday, Tuesday at the latest, all subscribers have received the latest copy of the *News*. No other numismatic publication, with the exception of our sister weekly newspaper, *World Coin News*, can claim such timely delivery and fast news coverage.

numismatic news

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hereafter.

Woodrow W. Campbell
Address Withheld

What's Difference?

I am writing regarding the recent criticism by coin dealers of those operators who offer to buy silver and gold coins, jewelry, silverware, etc., out of local hotel/motel rooms at prices much lower than the current market.

It seems the situation is now reversed in that on Jan. 16, when the quoted price for a troy ounce of silver was between \$45 and \$46, the major local dealers in San Antonio were only willing to pay 22 times face value for 90 percent silver coins. However, back on Jan. 5 when the value of one troy ounce of silver was \$36, local dealers were paying between 22 and 23 times face value.

The price of a troy ounce of silver goes up \$10, or 28 percent, and the local coin dealers are paying the same or less for 90 percent silver coins. Who is taking advantage of the public now? If I were the above coin dealers, I would refrain from any criticism of those local motel operators in the future. I would appreciate any reader response to the above comments.

John Parker
San Antonio, Texas

(Editor's Note: Before any mud is slung at the legitimate coin dealers, readers should take note that certain market forces over which dealers have no control were responsible for the lack of movement in bullion coin prices when silver bullion itself was rising rapidly.

(Because of silver's runaway performance in the last few weeks and the attendant headlines given it by the nation's news media, the American public began dumping their silver into the laps of the nation's dealers. Amounts so huge were sold that it clogged up the silver recovery system. Smelters soon accumulated a backlog of

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NEW GOLD MEDALLIONS

**FINALLY, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFERS
GOLD TO THE AVERAGE CITIZEN**

by BOB WOLENIK

Gold has been in the headlines constantly for the past six months. Prices have skyrocketed from a low of about \$250 to a high approaching \$1,000 over the last year. All the rules relating to the precious metal seem to have been broken. Thus, it should come as no shock that for the first time since 1933, the U.S. government is going to issue its own gold piece!

It should come as no shock, but it does, mainly because of the position the U.S. government maintains with regard to gold. Officially, the U.S. is off the gold standard and the American government has done virtually everything possible over the past few years to demonetize the precious metal. As far as our government is concerned, gold is through, finished, washed up as any form of currency.

Yet, incredibly, now the U.S. government is planning to issue its own bullion gold "coins" which may eventually compete with the krugerrand, the sovereign, the maple leaf and the other gold bullion pieces.

As numismatists know, a gold U.S. medallion has been in the works for more than a year now. But, the story of how it has come to be remains fascinating. It all started with the gold bullion sales that the government has held intermittently over the past five years.

The U.S. government has sold millions of ounces of its reserves (estimated

to be about 270 million ounces as of this writing) in auctions open to the public. The purpose of these sales, however, was not to deplete the U.S. gold stockpile, at least not according to official comments. There were essentially two reasons for having the gold sales. The first was to obtain both U.S. dollars and foreign currency which could be used to offset the heavy deficit in the U.S. balance of trade. The other was to help maintain a stable private gold market. This latter reason

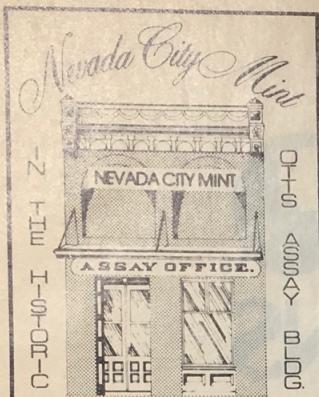
has been scoffed at by some analysts. They point out that over the last few years, the U.S. tended to sell gold only



The Mint's chief engraver, Frank Gasparro, looks over models of America's first one-ounce gold medallions, below. The obverse features the portrait of American artist, Grant Wood. The reverse (right) shows Wood working on his most well-known work, American Gothic.



After years of delay, the U.S. government is finally going to produce gold medallions and make them available to the public. The smallest medallion will contain one-half ounce of gold and feature the portrait of singer Marion Anderson on the obverse.



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NEW GOLD MEDALLIONS

Continued from page 25

when the price of the precious metal was rising. Rather than stabilize the market, they point out, the effect was to undercut the price of gold.

U.S. officials, however, have pointed out that such analysis overlooks the relationship between gold and the dollar. In the past (although not with the most recent gold price surge) people tended to sell U.S. dollars only, not foreign currencies, to buy gold. Gold purchases, therefore, pushed the U.S. dollar down relative to other currencies. To bring the dollar back up, the U.S. government resorted to selling gold. Since, however, the current interest in gold finds buyers making purchases with all currencies the relative position of the U.S. dollar with regard to foreign currencies is unaffected by gold. Buying gold may cause some devaluation of all paper currencies, but it does not specifically affect the U.S. dollar. That is one reason that the U.S. has held off its big gold auctions and is now preparing to instead sell the small medallions.

Regardless of the reasons for holding the sales, they are what put the U.S. back in the "coin" business, although in a roundabout fashion. Most of the remaining U.S. stockpile of gold being sold came from coins called in back in the 1930's when the U.S. delegated gold ownership for U.S. citizens. The gold that was called in came from 90% gold coins principally in five, ten and twenty dollar denominations. In essence, the gold came from the "little person."

On the other hand, the auctions the U.S. had held over the past few years have been for big buyers. Typically the gold was sold in bars weighing anywhere from 200 to 450 ounces. A 400 ounce bar, when gold is valued at \$500 an ounce, would cost \$200,000 to purchase! The small buyer definitely was out of the market.

But, many observers, including Congressmen and Senators, noted a disparity here. The gold in the reserves came from the average American when it was, in effect, confiscated. But today, only the big buyer could afford to get it back. It simply wasn't fair. In response to this apparent injustice, the Gold Medallion Act of October 1978 was passed. It provided for the issuance of gold medallions, one million per year in the half ounce size, 500,000 per year in the one ounce size to be sold for a five year period. It was a chance for the average American to get back some of the gold he or she lost back in 1933.

The Treasury, however, for reasons which had to do with international balance of payments and the value of the U.S. dollar relative to other currencies was not thrilled, however, with the Gold Medallion Act. It embarked on what seemed to the casual observer to be a series of delaying tactics. First, it in-

dicated that its interpretation of the new law was that there would be a one year waiting period before the first medallion could be issued, putting the opening date back to October, 1979. Next it questioned where it would get the money to finance the striking of the medallions. Finally, it indicated that a study was needed to determine if a private company would be best suited to create the gold blanks from which the medallions would be made. To some analysis, it appeared last year that for all practical purposes the medallion was dead.

But interest in the medallion lingered both in potential buyers and in some within the Treasury itself. Then, in February of this year the announcement came that the U.S. gold medallion was alive and well.

The production schedule calls for the gold blanks or planchets to be delivered to the Mint starting in February. The actual striking of the medallions will begin in March and they will officially go on sale by June.

As of this time there has been no announcement as to the price of the pieces, although it is widely believed that they will be valued at the then current price of gold bullion PLUS a premium. The premium is an added on cost for minting, handling and promoting the sale of the pieces. Current gold bullion coin premiums range from a low of about 3 to 4 percent on the krugerrand to about 20% on the sovereign.

It is also believed that they will be offered on a first come, first served basis through the mail in a fashion similar to the sale of proof coins. There will probably a limit on the number that any one individual will buy.

Complete details of the sale will be published in COINage magazine, including a coupon and address. Check the April and May issues.

The first coins will feature a bust of the gothic painter, Grant Wood, on the obverse of the one ounce medallion. Famed singer Marian Anderson will be featured on the obverse of the one-half ounce medallion.

The medallions themselves will contain 90% pure gold (meaning that their gross weight will be slightly heavier than the gold weight). This is the fineness of the ingots stored in the U.S. reserve and makes for easier production of the pieces. It is estimated that the one ounce medallion will have a diameter of approximately 32 millimeters and a thickness of about 2.4 millimeters. The half ounce medallions would probably be 25 millimeters in diameter and have a thickness of roughly 2.4 millimeters.

The design of the medallions is being left to the Chief Engraver of the Mint, Frank Gasparro. Working from photographs and prints of the artists to be featured, he has created the designs shown accompanying this article. Gasparro also created the design for the

Continued on page 28

The quest for gold medals is an integral part of the Winter Olympic Games, and within a few months the American public will undertake a different kind of quest — but once again gold medals will be the "prizes."

Starting in June, the United States Government will offer for sale two different bullion-type gold medallions. The two pieces, one-ounce and 1½-ounce in size, will be the first of 10 such issues to be marketed over the next five years under a program authorized by the 95th Congress in the American Arts Gold Medallion Act of 1978.

Under this legislation the U.S. Mint is required to produce a minimum of 1.5 million gold medallions annually during the course of the program — 500,000 in the one-ounce size and one million in the ½-ounce version. These are to be sold to the public "at a competitive price equal to the free market value of gold contained therein plus the cost of manufacture."

In effect, these will be American equivalents of South Africa's popular Krugerrand — gold pieces sold primarily as stores of precious metal.

Marketing details remain incomplete, and at this point the Mint is even discouraging inquiries. But the outline of the program already is taking shape — and production of the medallions is scheduled to start during March.

As was the case with most U.S. coins struck in gold, the medallions will be .900 fine. The one-ounce piece will contain a full troy ounce of gold, the ½-ounce piece a full ½-ounce. However, the gold will be alloyed with 10 percent copper to give the metal greater hardness. The overall weight then will actually be 1.111 ounces for the larger medallion, and .555 ounce for the smaller one. Diameters will be 32 millimeters and 27.5 millimeters, respectively.

The medallions will be struck on planchets, or blanks, prepared by private companies using gold supplied by Uncle Sam. The Mint ordered 505,000 one-ounce planchets from Engelhard Minerals and Chemicals Corporation of Iselin, N.J., and 1,010,000 half-ounce blanks from I. Stern of Mount Vernon, N.Y. These were to be delivered late this month to the Mint Depository at West Point, N.Y., where this year's production will take place.

The medallions will be marketed strictly on a mail-order basis — and postal clerks will process the orders. Under present plans, the Mint will provide a toll-free telephone number where potential buyers can get the current price quotations. They then can obtain a limited number of pieces at the going rate by having their orders pro-

NUMISMATICS

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Gold, American Style

cessed at any post office that same day. Orders will be hand-canceled, and the postmark will serve as the validation.

As with other bullion-type pieces, these will vary in price according to gold's market value. Prices will be determined each day on the basis of the previous day's closing quotation for gold bullion on the New York Commodity Exchange.

On a day when the bullion price is up, it clearly will be advantageous to buy at the prior day's level. But massive purchases will not be possible because each buyer will be limited to a small number of pieces — probably three of each variety — during each year of the program.

The law bars the Mint from realizing a profit; the price must reflect only the current value of the bullion involved plus actual costs of the program. The rate of the service charge hasn't yet been fixed, according to Dr. George E. Hunter, coordinator of the Mint task force which is working out details of the venture.

"We're not down to the wire yet in determining our actual costs," Dr. Hunter reports. "Once we do set the rate, we will be pretty well locked in; I don't anticipate changing it. So naturally we'll hold off as long as possible — until we have the best possible estimate of our costs."

Prior to the start of the ordering period, the Mint will distribute informational packets spelling out pertinent details. These will be available at every post office. But for now, Dr. Hunter stresses, the Mint is not prepared to even answer questions, much less accept orders.

"We have been trying to downplay inquiries on this thing," he says, "simply because it would be a disservice to customers to get them all interested and then not have order forms and not be ready to do anything. We really have not even geared up the informational aspect of the program — the people to answer telephones and so forth. We're just beginning to get to that stage."

Congress passed the authorizing act on Oct. 15, 1978, in the midst of a rush for adjournment. Implementation was held up for more than a year, prompting some Congressional backers of the program to criticize the Treasury Department — known to be unhappy with



Medallion honoring Grant Wood

the law — and accuse it of foot-dragging. According to Dr. Hunter, however, the delay resulted from a simple lack of funds: the Mint could not proceed until Congress authorized a supplemental appropriation to finance the program.

Each medallion will bear the portrait of a famous American who has won recognition in the arts. Those being honored this year are painter Grant Wood on the one-ounce medallion, and singer Marian Anderson on the ½-ounce piece.

Those to be featured in subsequent years are authors Mark Twain and Willa Cather in the second year of the program, musician Louis Armstrong and architect Frank Lloyd Wright in the third year, poet Robert Frost and sculptor Alexander Calder in the fourth year, and actress Helen Hayes and novelist John Steinbeck in the fifth and final year.

This year's medallions were designed by Frank Gasparro, the Mint's chief sculptor-engraver. He confides that the project posed some difficult technical problems.

For one thing, Mr. Gasparro says, gold is not an easy metal to work with when sizable production is involved. While it is soft, it also is very dense, and therefore "just won't move" to accommodate a design if there's too much relief or too little pressure.

This particular point was dramatized, he notes, by the problems the Mint experienced in 1907, when it tried to strike Augustus Saint-Gaudens's

double eagle in high-relief. The high-relief coins were stunning — but after breaking numerous dies because of excessive pressure, Mint officials decided to reduce the relief.

"I'm learning a lesson that goes back to 1907," Mr. Gasparro remarks. "I should have realized that. But we never had that experience, you see; we never worked with gold." Production of U.S. gold coins had been discontinued for almost a decade, he points out, when his Mint career began in 1942.

The Marian Anderson medallion is almost identical in design to a Mint medal issued slightly more than a year ago. The obverse features a portrait of the singer, the reverse a depiction of two hands cradling the world — a symbol intended to suggest one of Miss Anderson's most famous musical numbers, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

The Grant Wood medallion portrays painter Wood on both sides. The obverse bears his bust, and the reverse shows him painting "American Gothic," the work that is undoubtedly his most famous.

The medallions are the latest in a long line of Frank Gasparro works. During his career at the Mint, Mr. Gasparro also has designed dozens of other medallic issues, including official medals for four U.S. Presidents and the official national Bicentennial medal. But he is best known for his coinage designs. He designed the Lincoln Memorial reverse of the current cent, the reverse of the Kennedy half dollar, both sides of the Eisenhower dollar and — most recently — both sides of the Susan B. Anthony dollar.

Silver Dollar Sale

The U.S. Government sale of 19th century silver dollars is underway, with new ground rules drafted in the wake of the sharp recent upturn in the value of silver.

Between now and April 8 the General Services Administration will be offering 923,287 silver dollars — all of them struck at the now-defunct mint in Carson City, Nev. — at fixed prices ranging from \$45 to \$65. Prices will be \$65 apiece for dollars dated 1883, \$60 for those dated 1884, and \$45 for "mixed-date" specimens covering the years 1878-1885 and 1889-1893. All are described as uncirculated, but the mint mixed-date pieces are said to have excessive tarnish, bag marks or other defects.

Details can be obtained from Federal Information Centers in 38 major cities. Their toll-free telephone numbers are listed in the white pages of most telephone directories under the U.S. Government heading.

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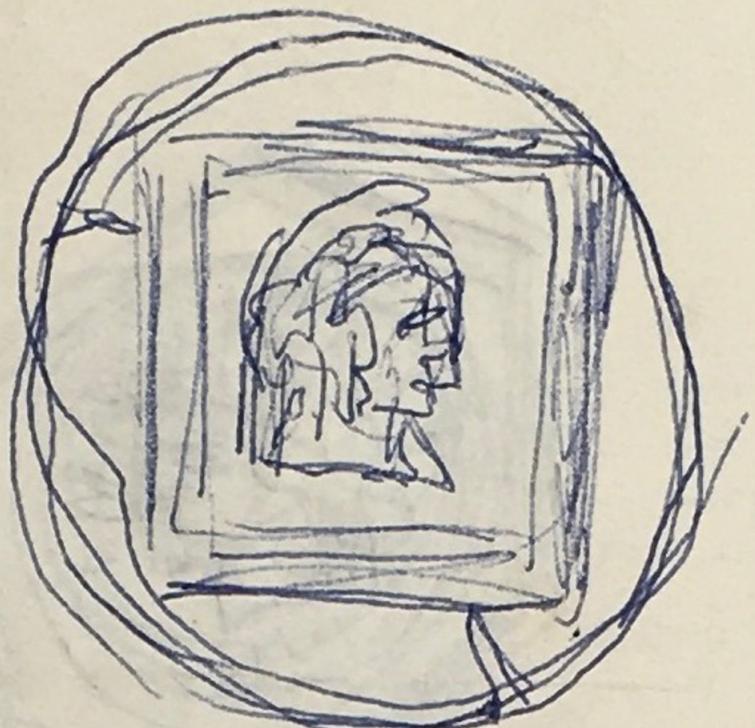
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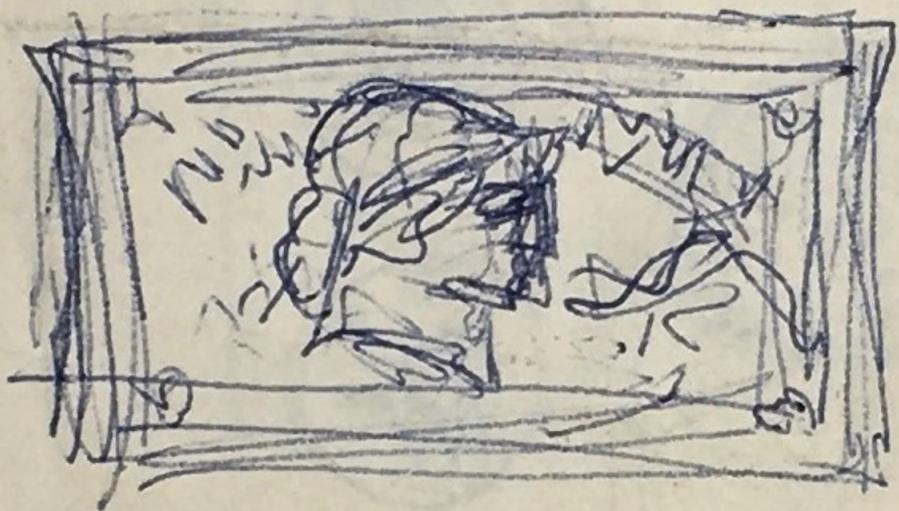
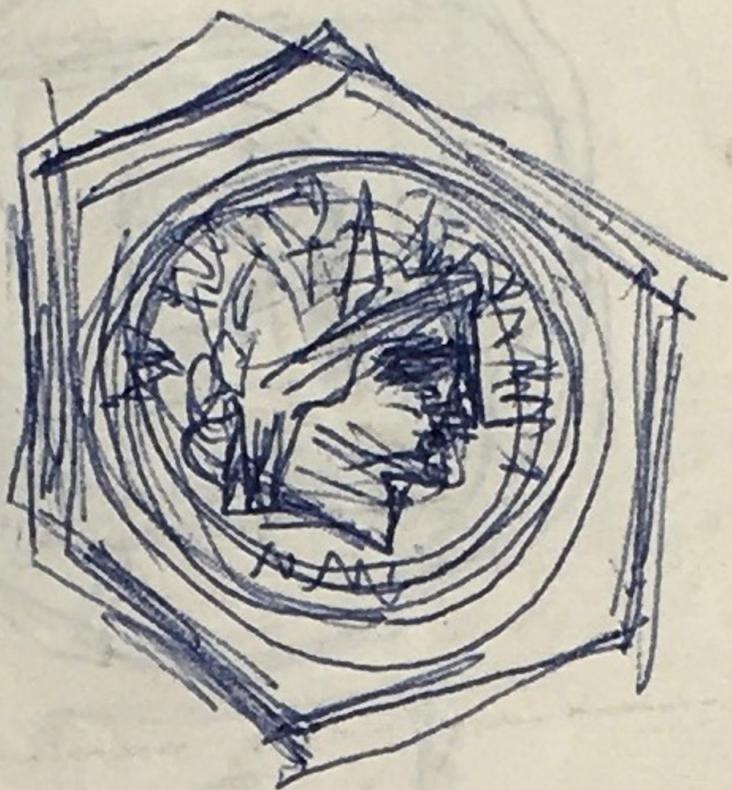
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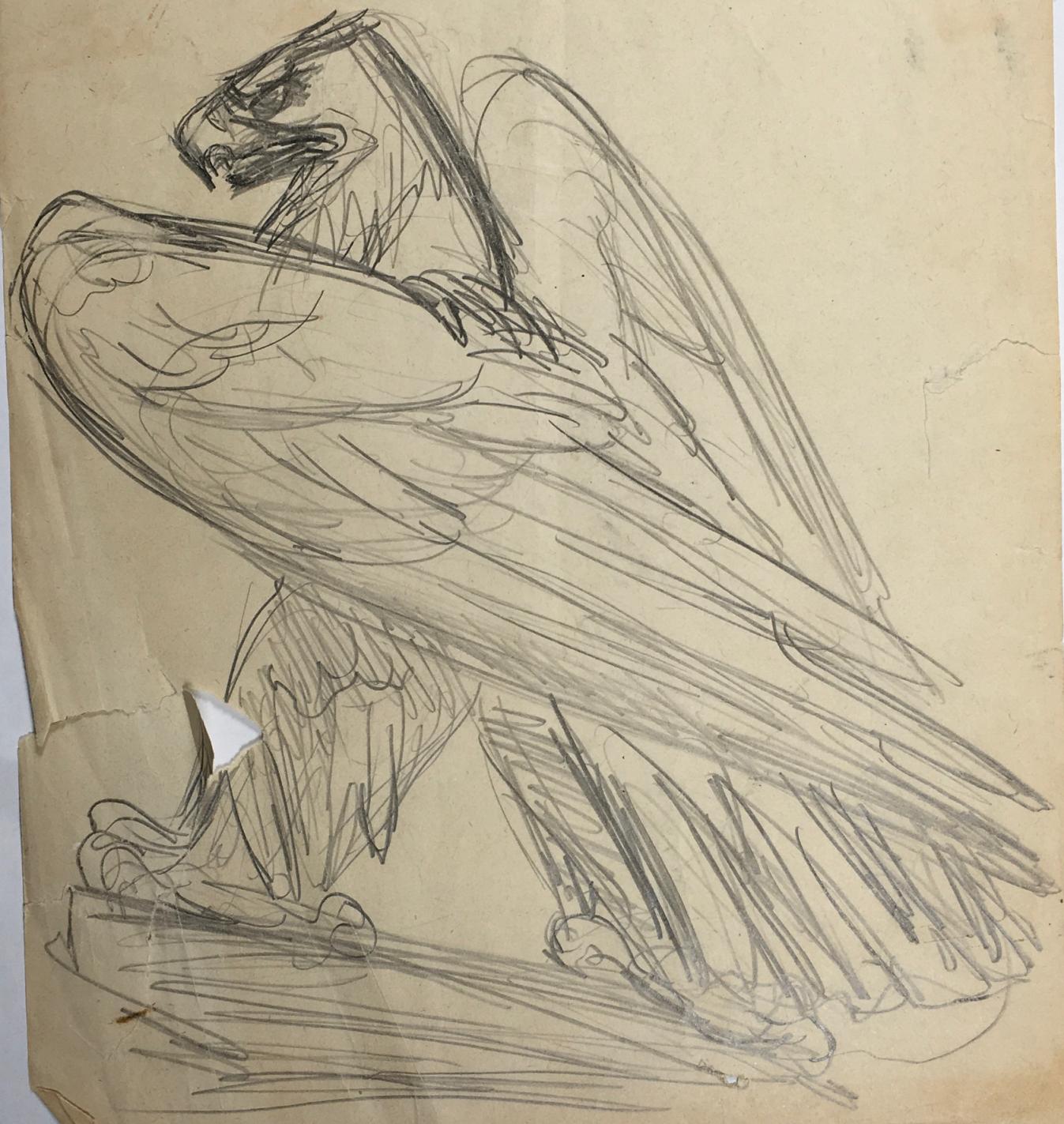
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DRAWINGS (3)





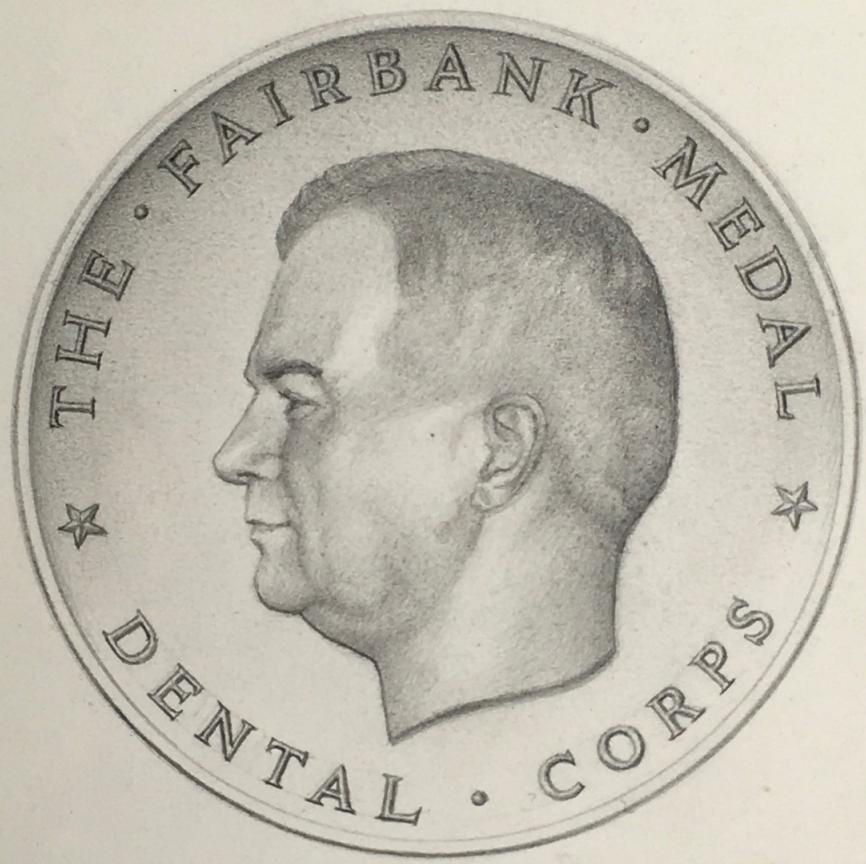




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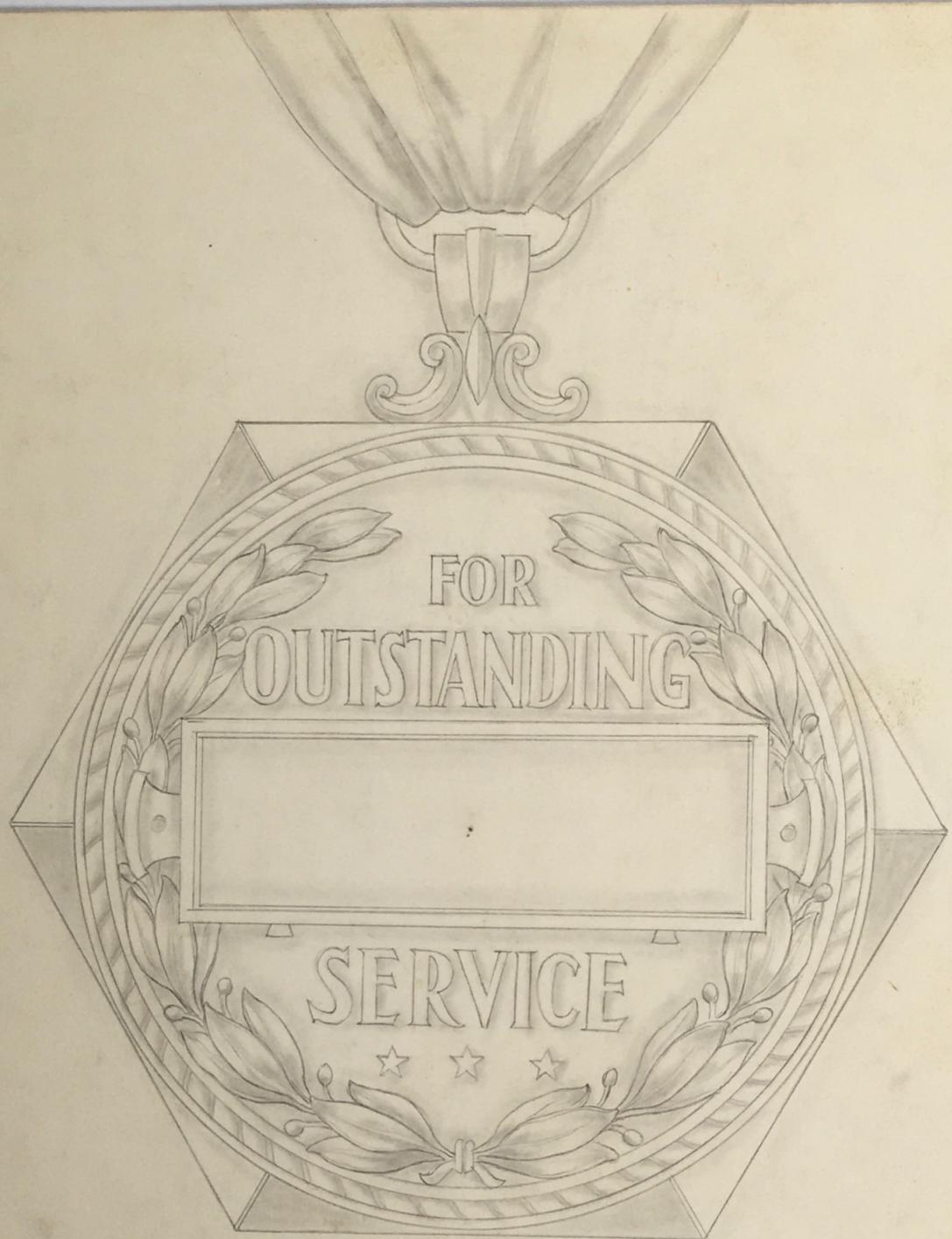


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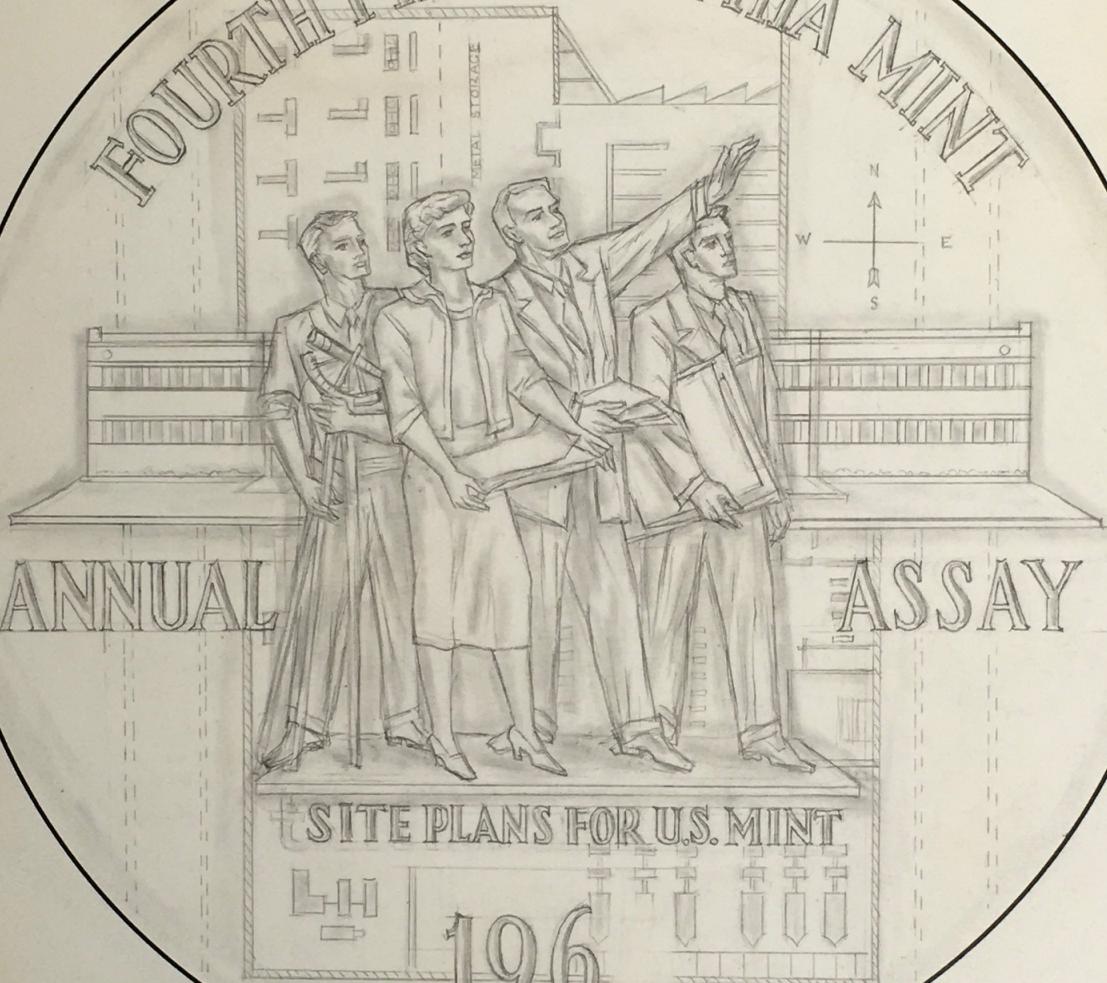


FOURTH PHILADELPHIA MINT

ANNUAL ASSAY

SITE PLANS FOR U.S. MINT

196





PRESENTED BY

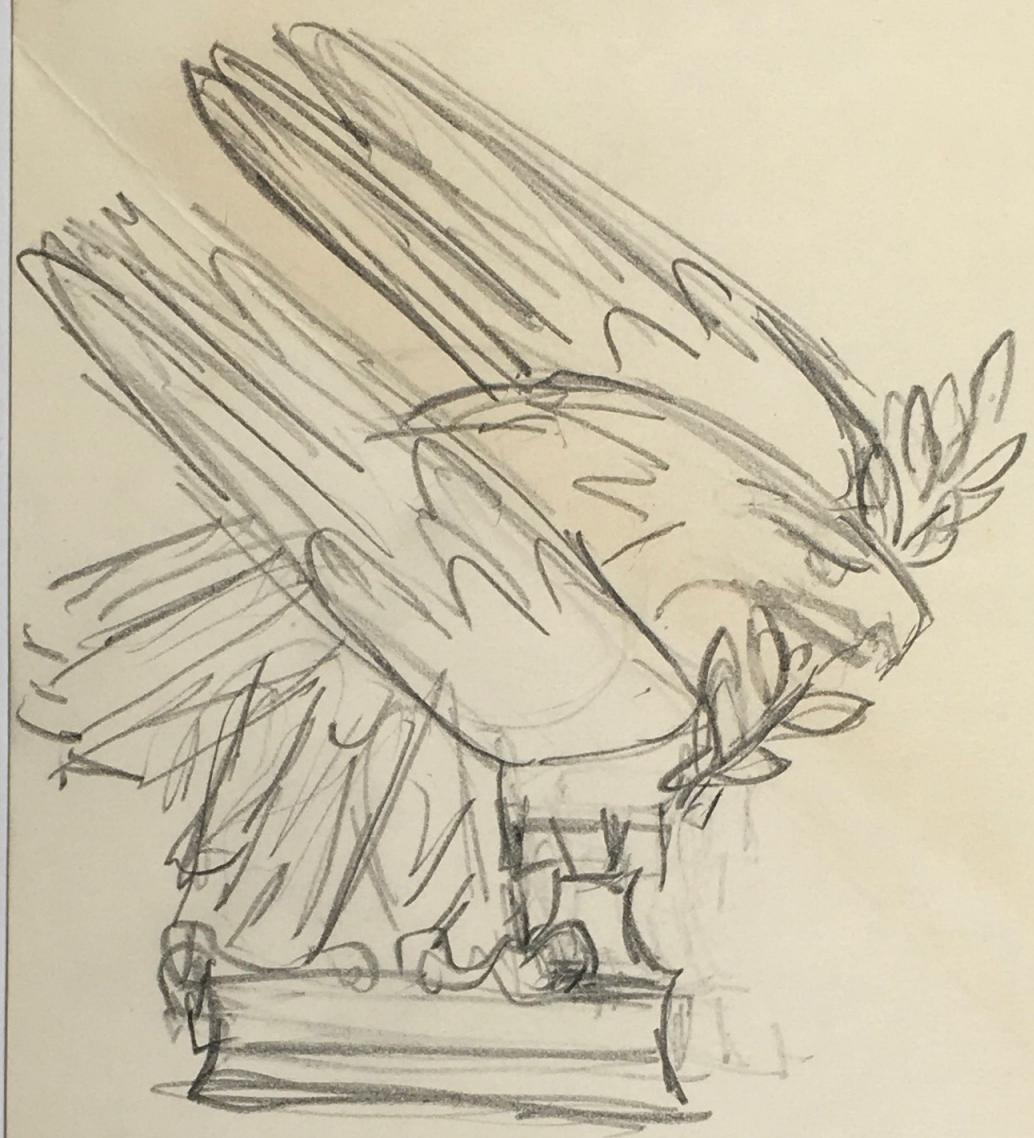
PRESIDENT D. D. EISENHOWER
IN THE NAME OF CONGRESS AND THE
PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE
FIELD OF NUCLEAR PROPULSION

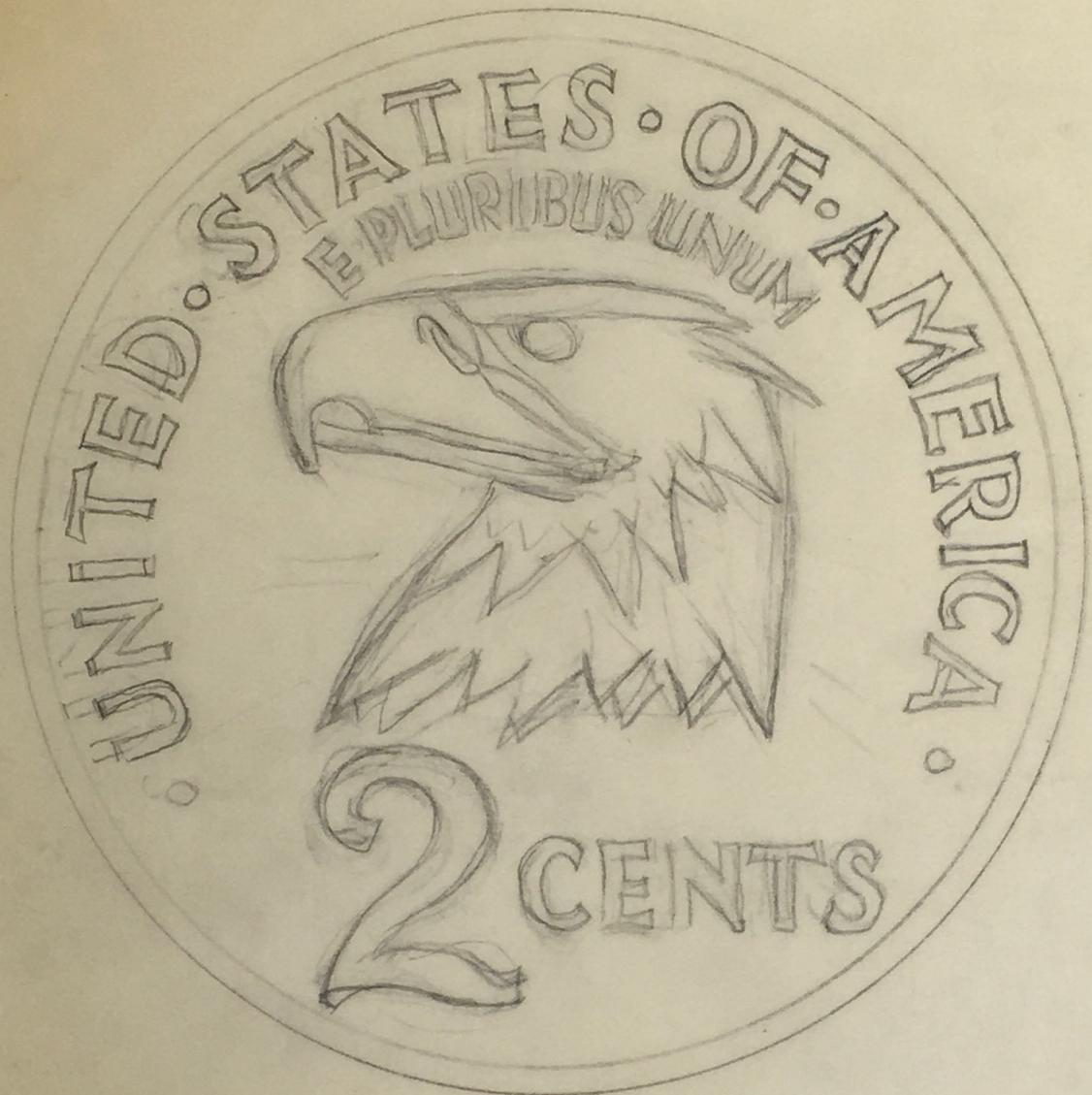
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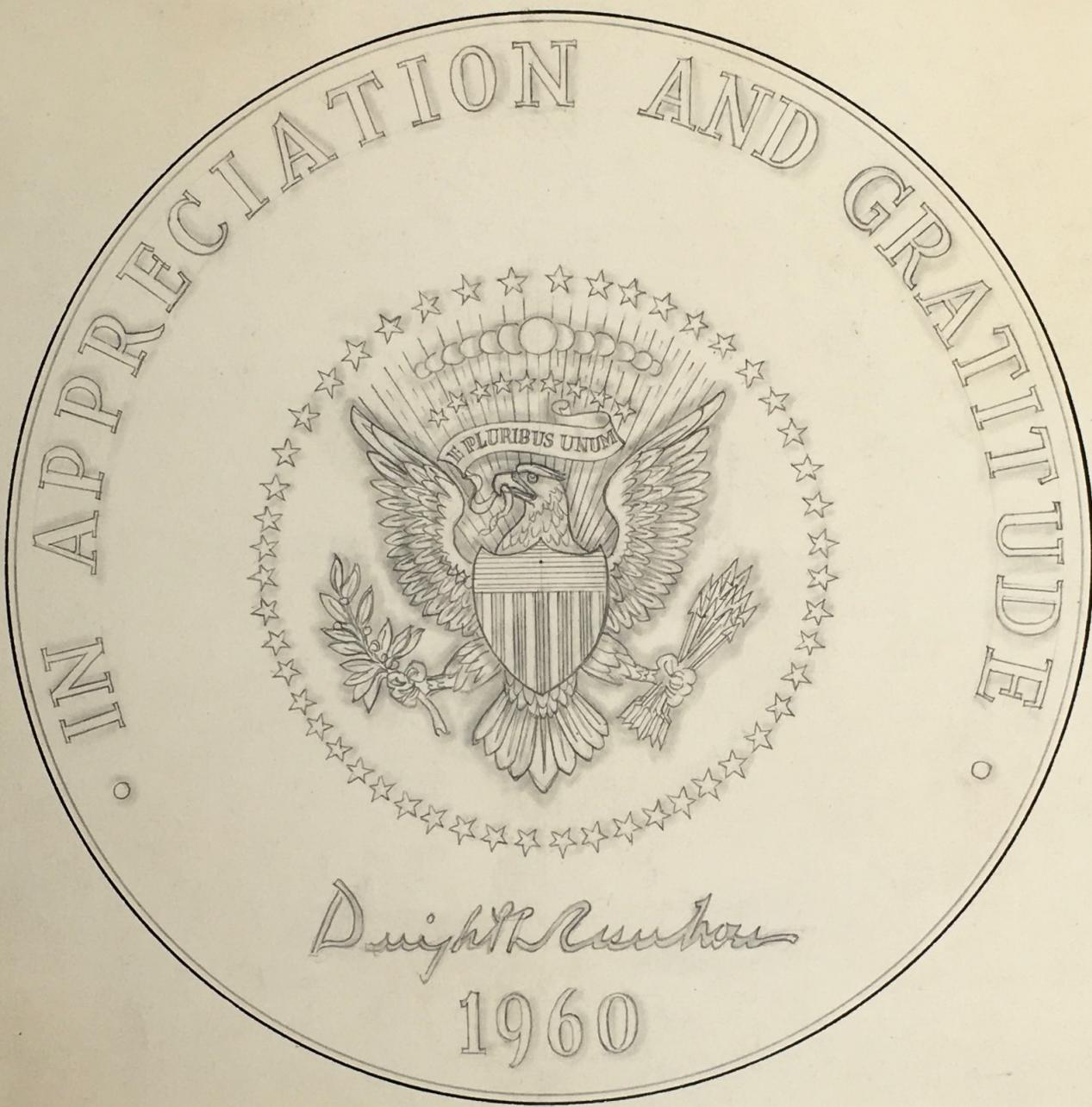
LIBERTY

IN GOD WE TRUST

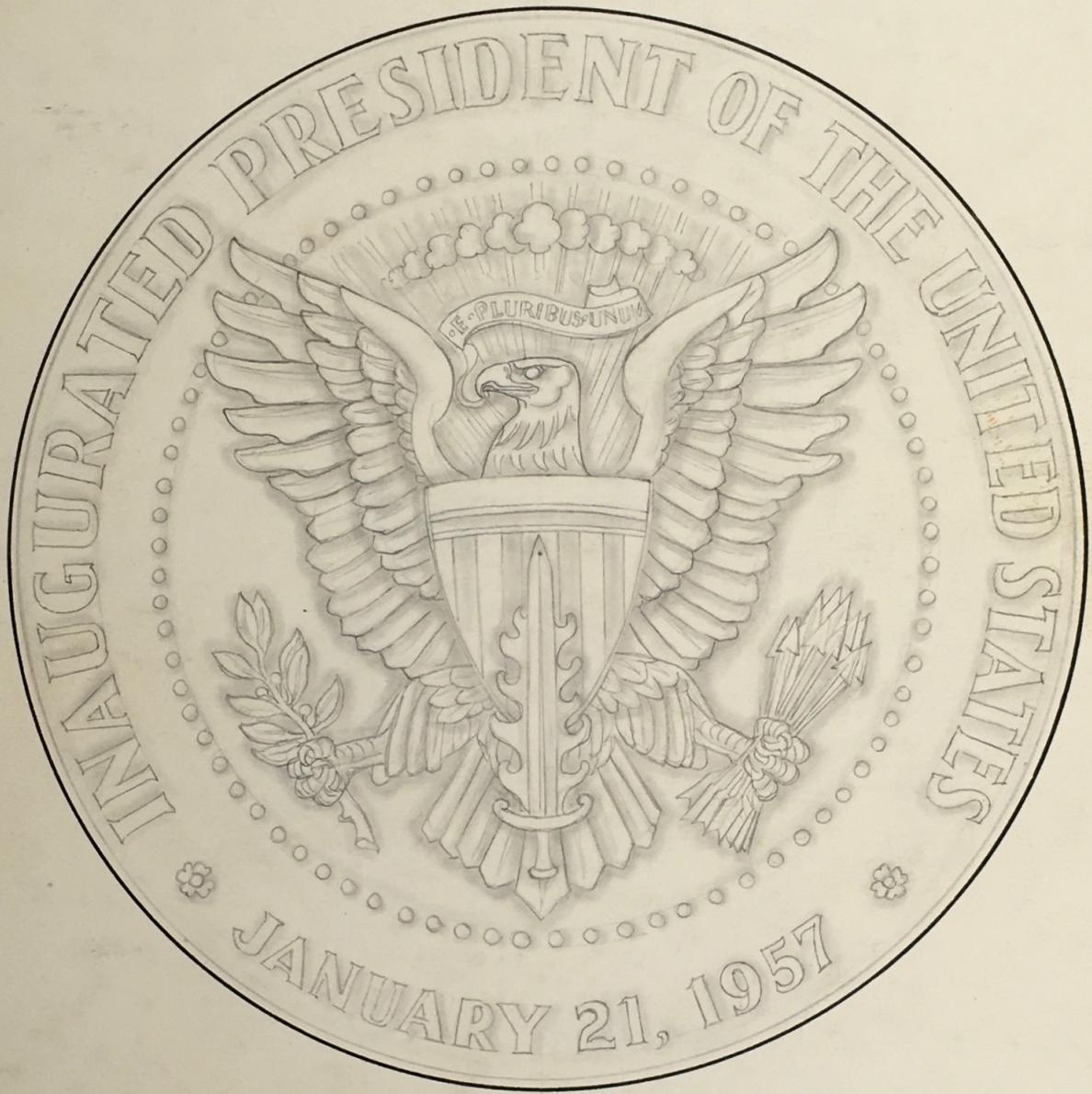


TREASURY DEPARTMENT

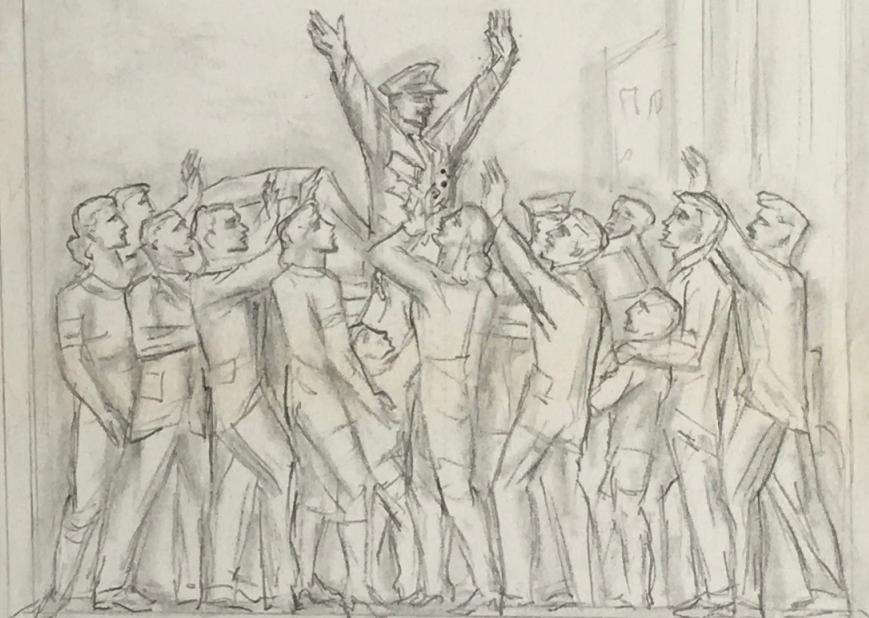
1978



Dwight R. Runyon
1960



PEACE • VICTORY

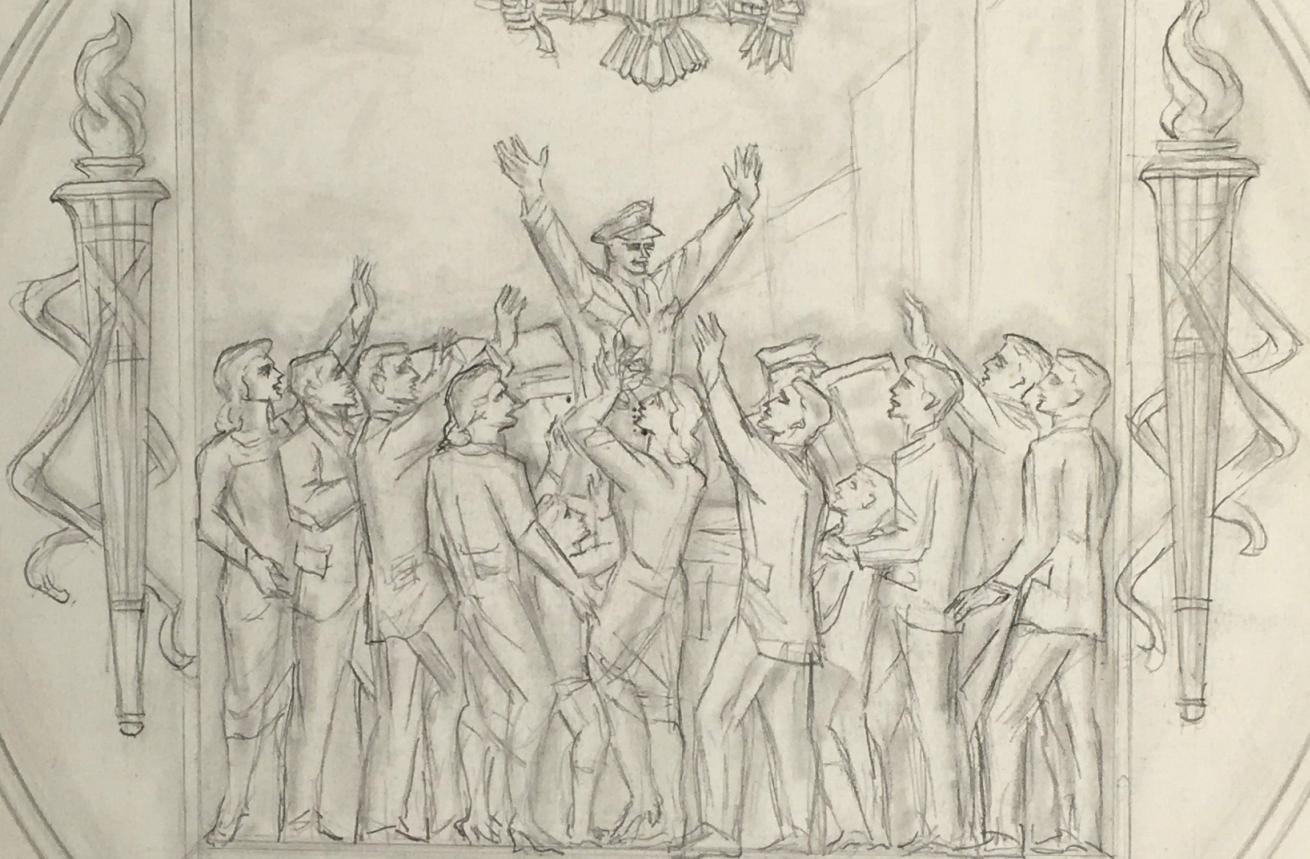


• WORLD WAR III •

VICTORY DAY NEW YORK

JUNE 20, 1945

VICTORY PEACE



• WORLD WAR III •

VICTORY DAY • NEW YORK

JUNE 20, 1945



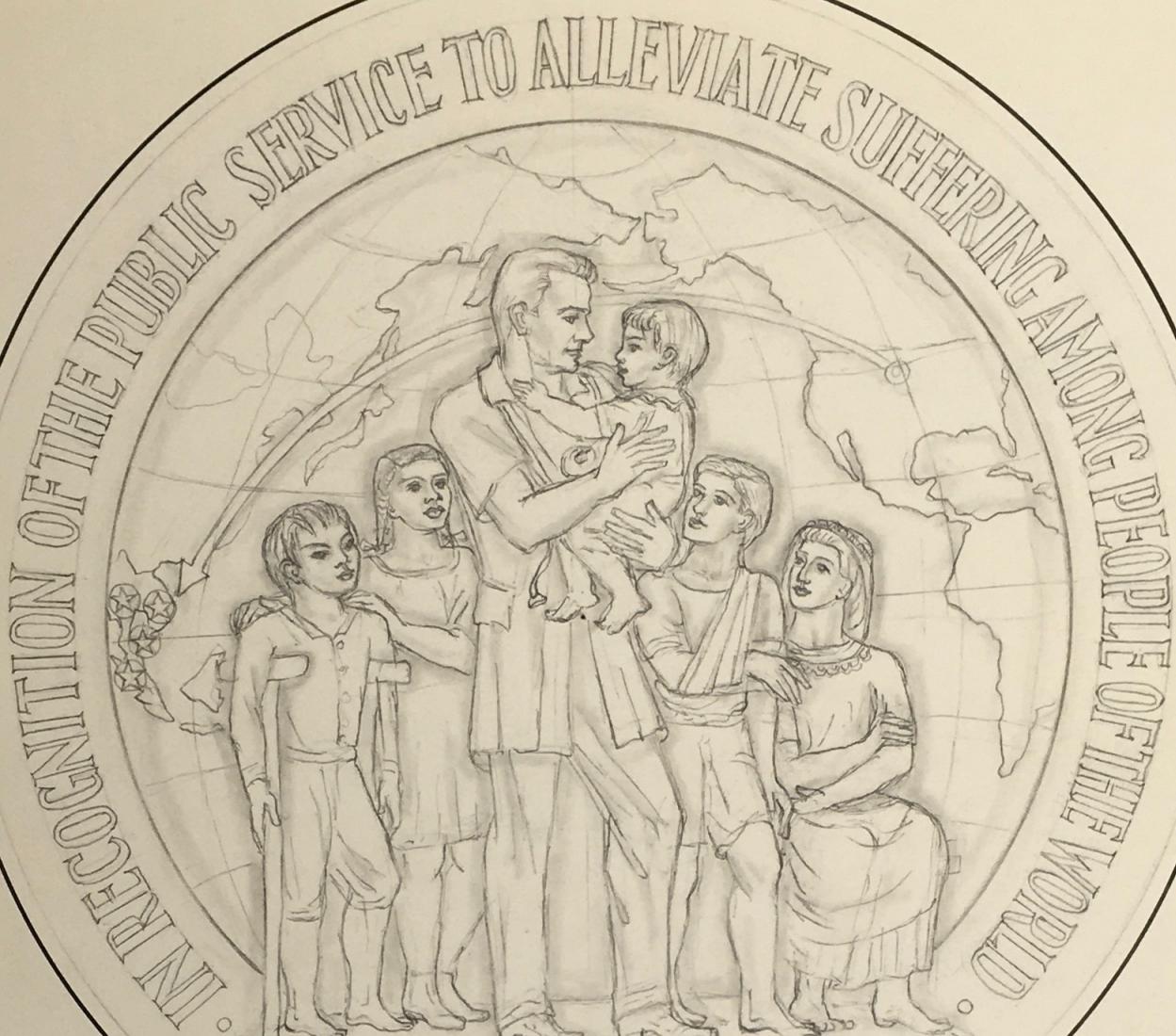
THE FRONTIERSMAN,
PIONEER MINER
AND FAMILY GROUP



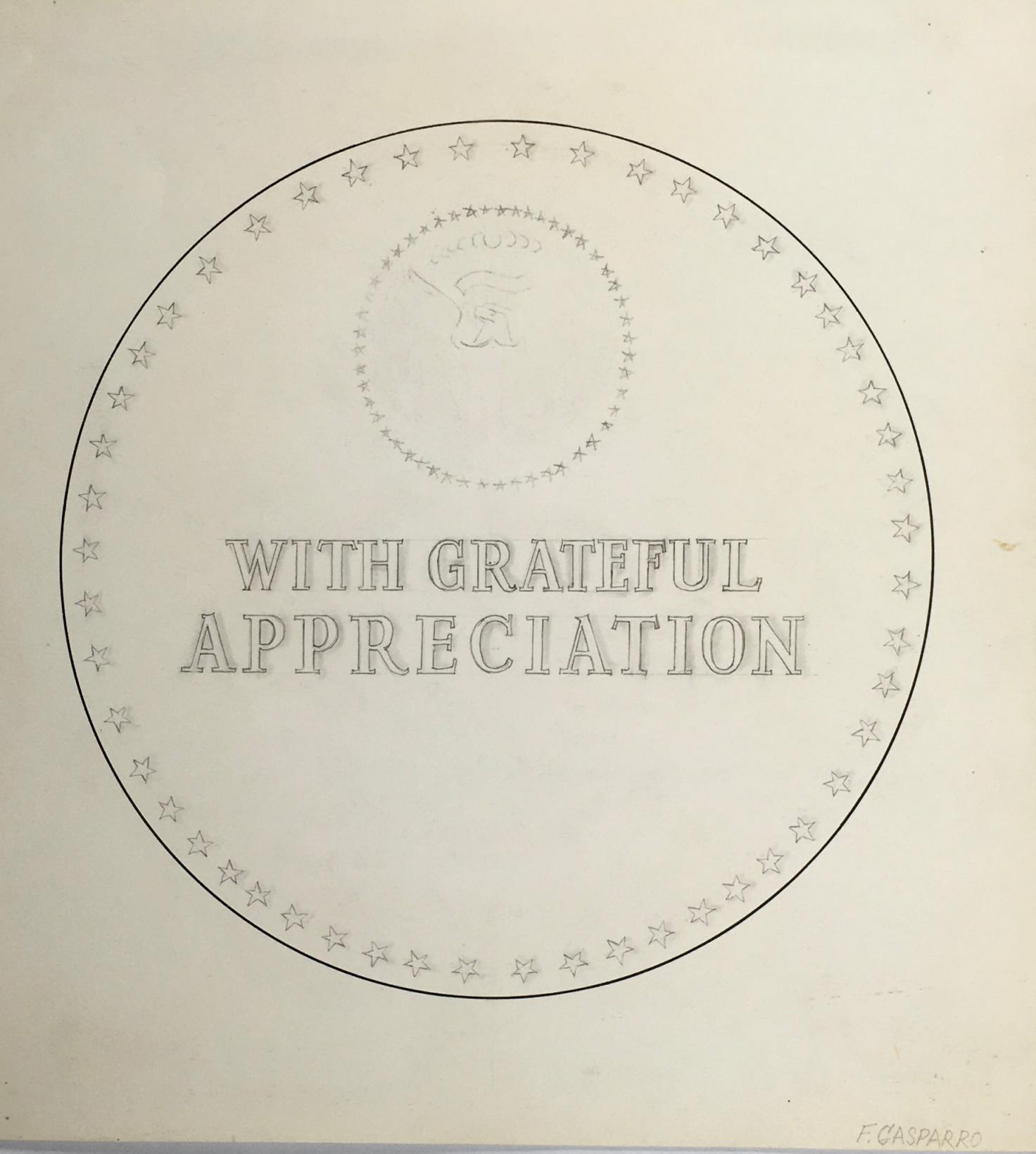
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THE FRONTIERSMAN, PIONEER MINER AND FAMILY GROUP

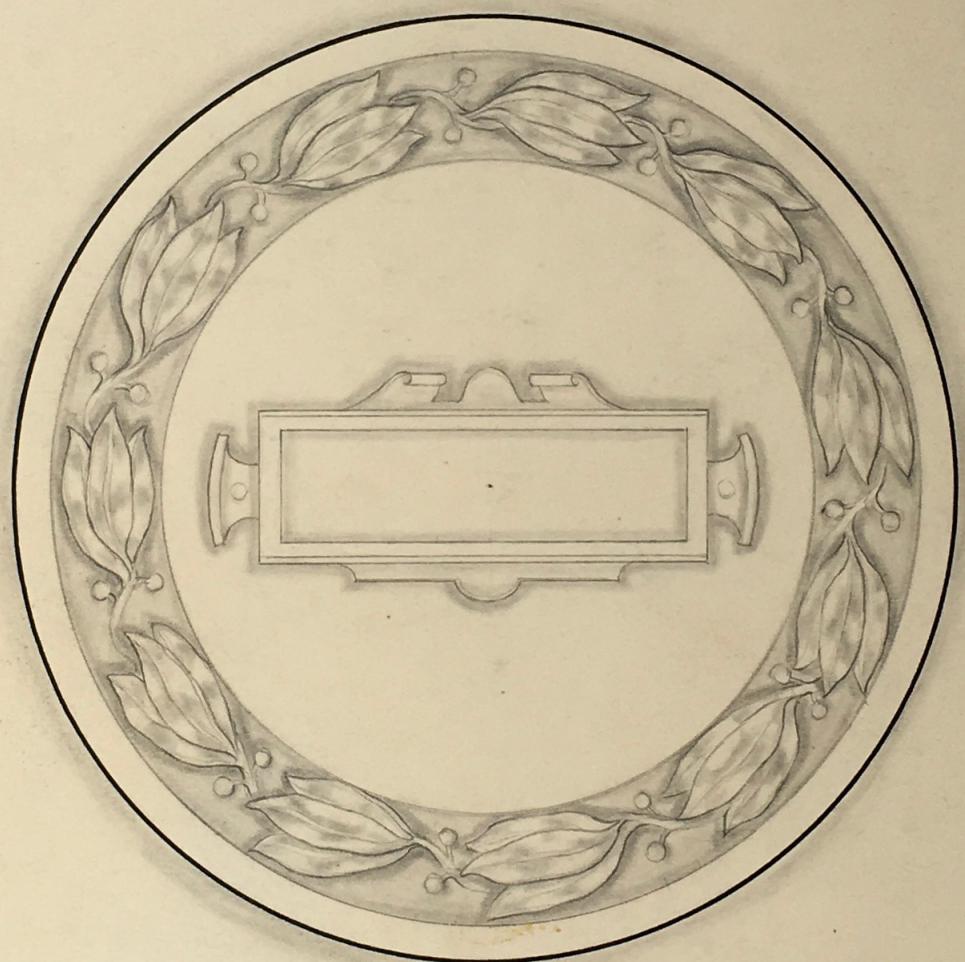
F. GASPARRO

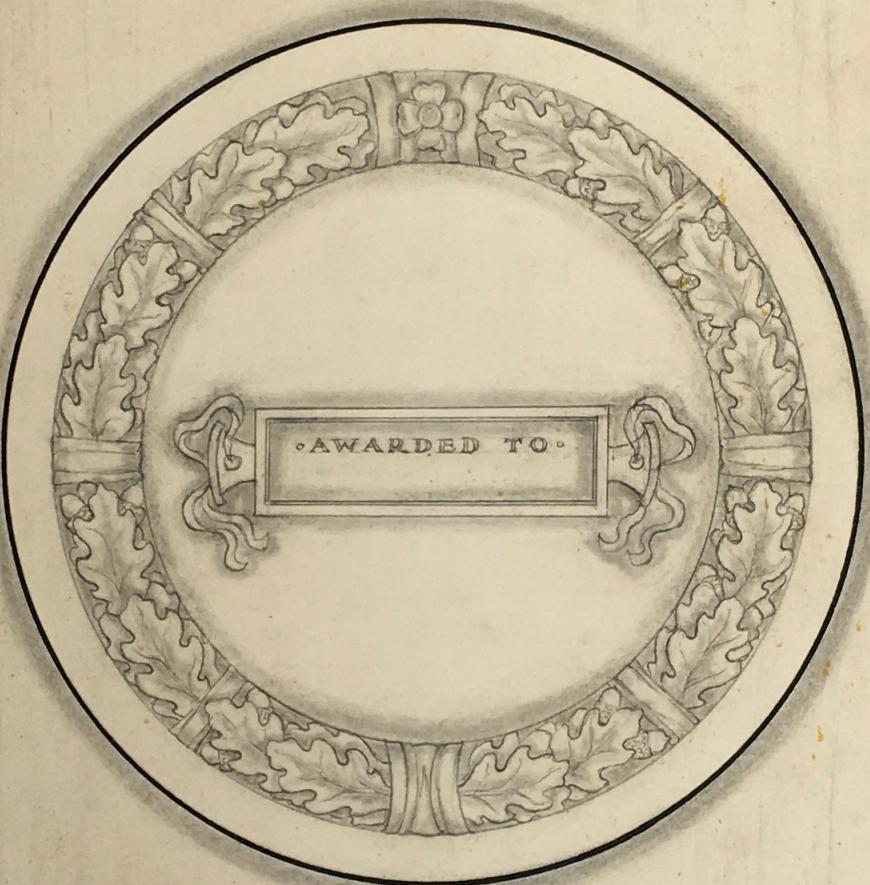


TO DR. THOMAS ANTHONY DOOLEY, III
AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS
• MAY 27, 1961 •

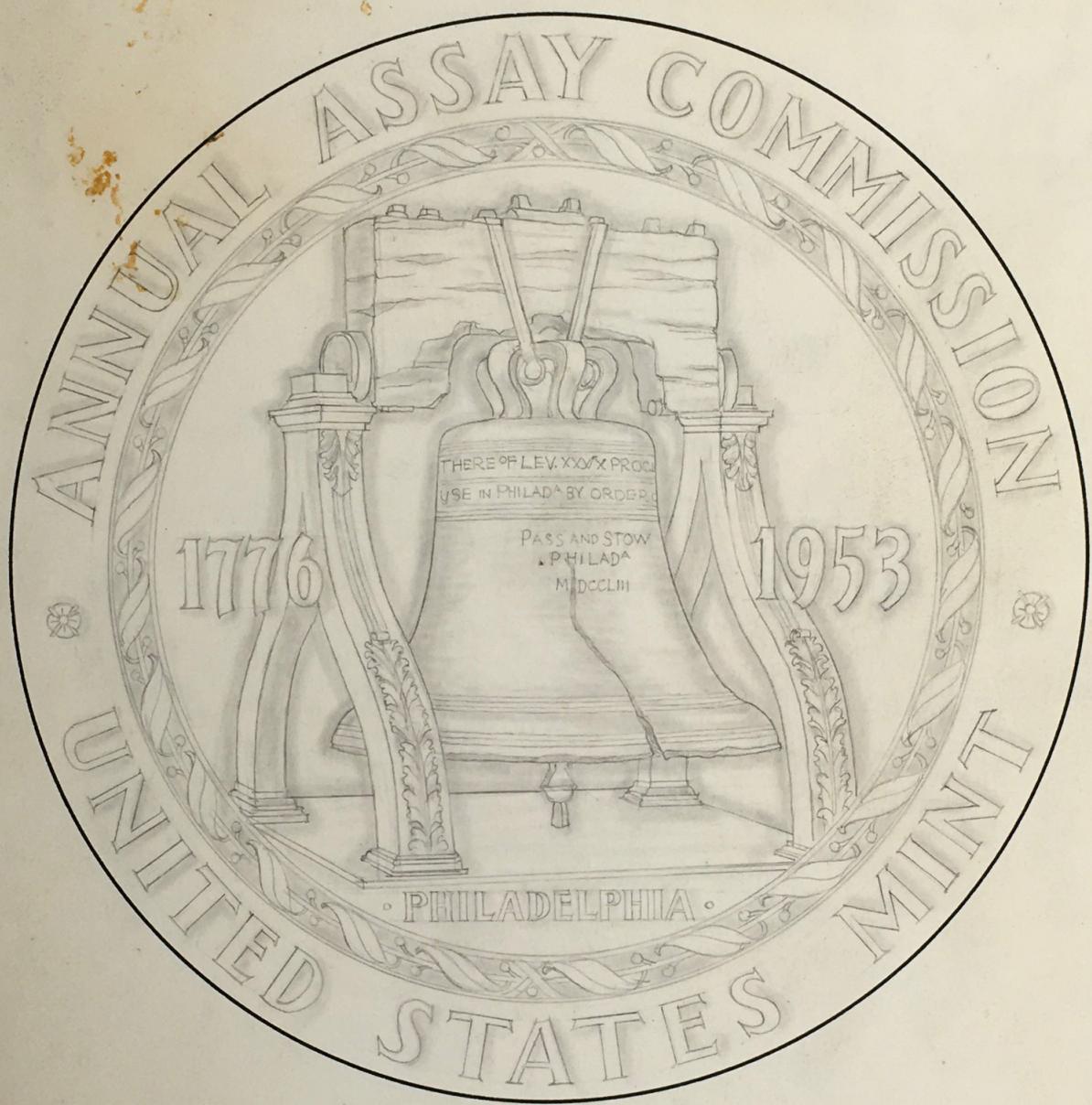


WITH GRATEFUL
APPRECIATION



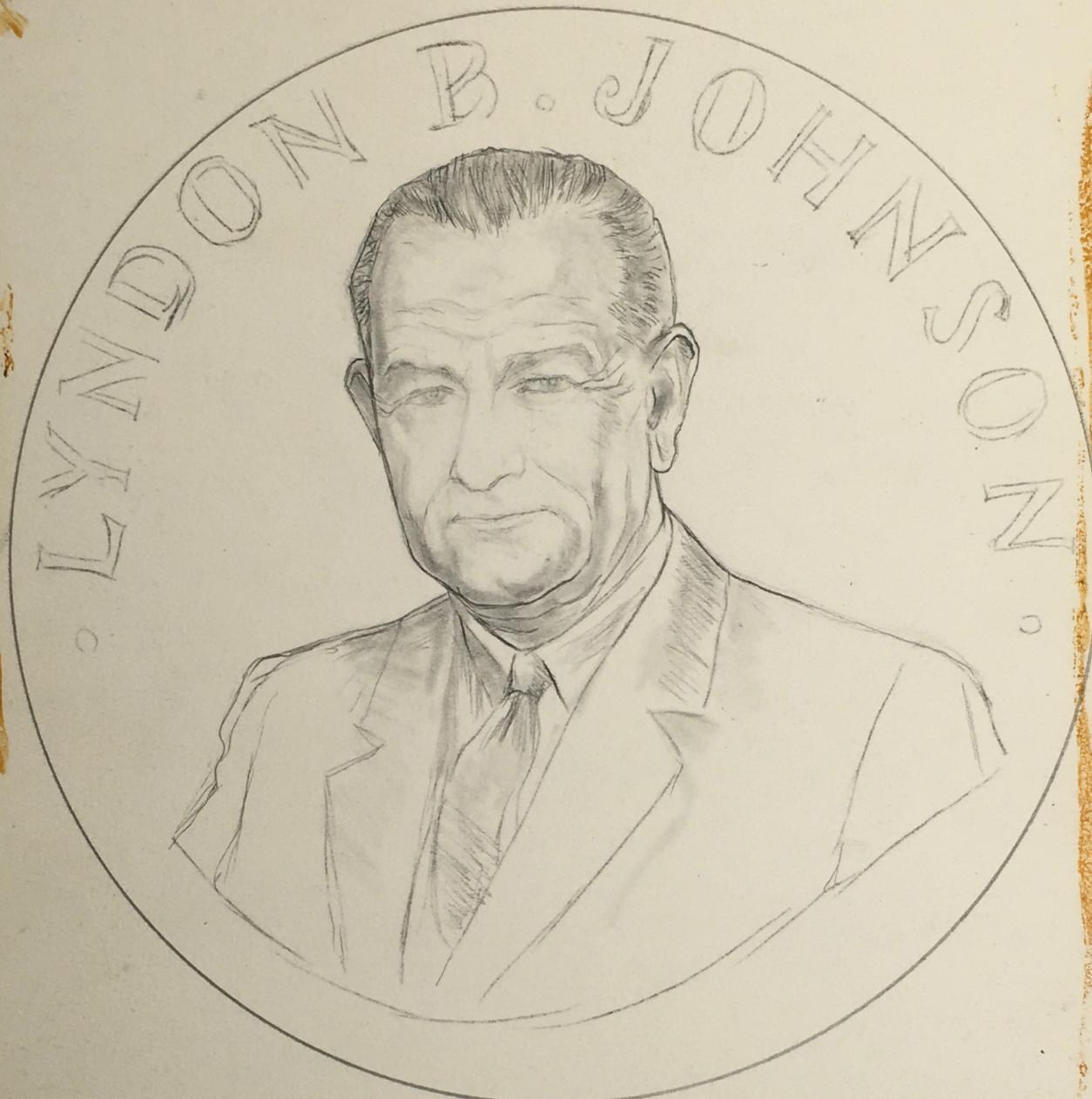


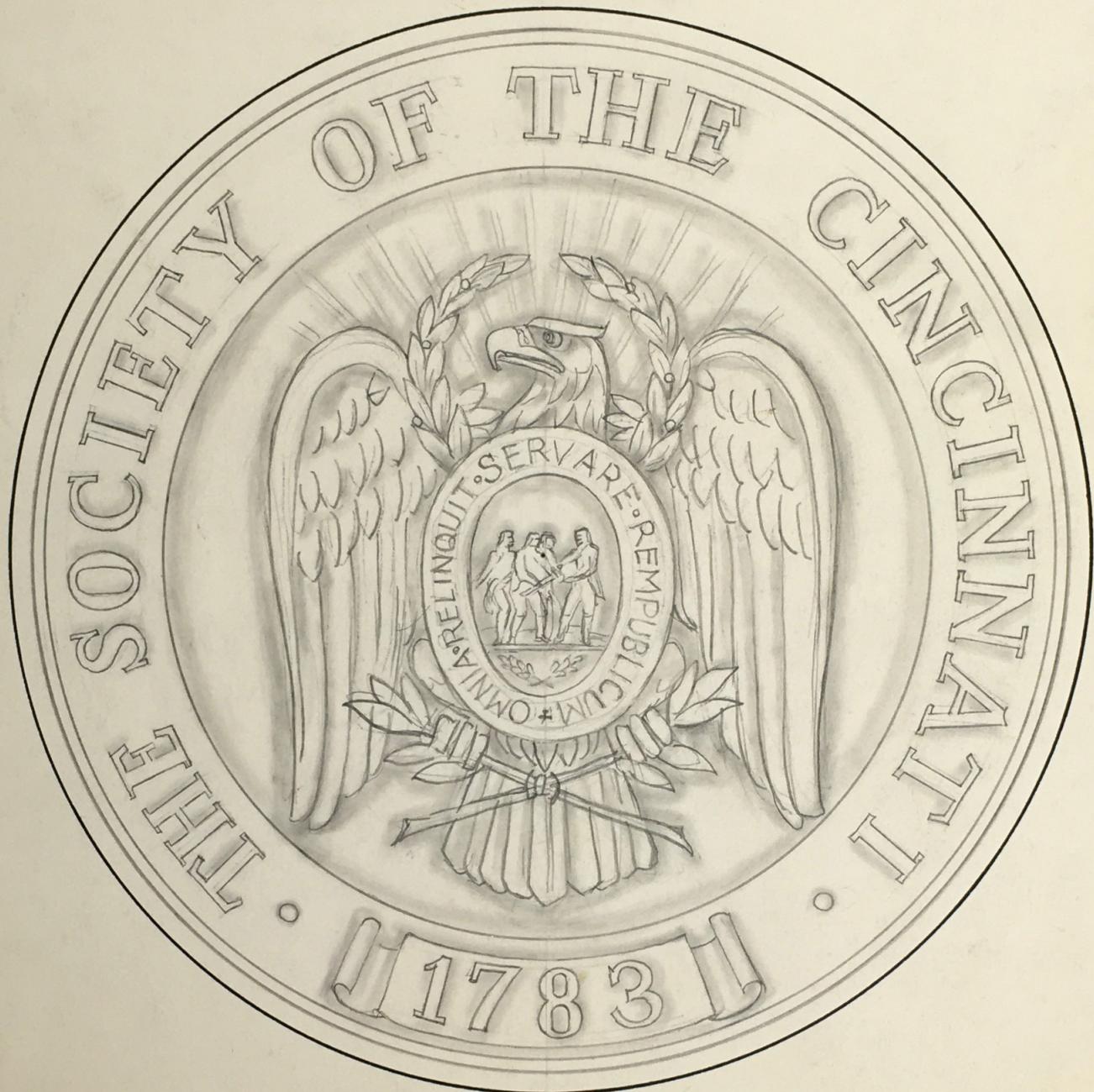
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F. GASPARRO

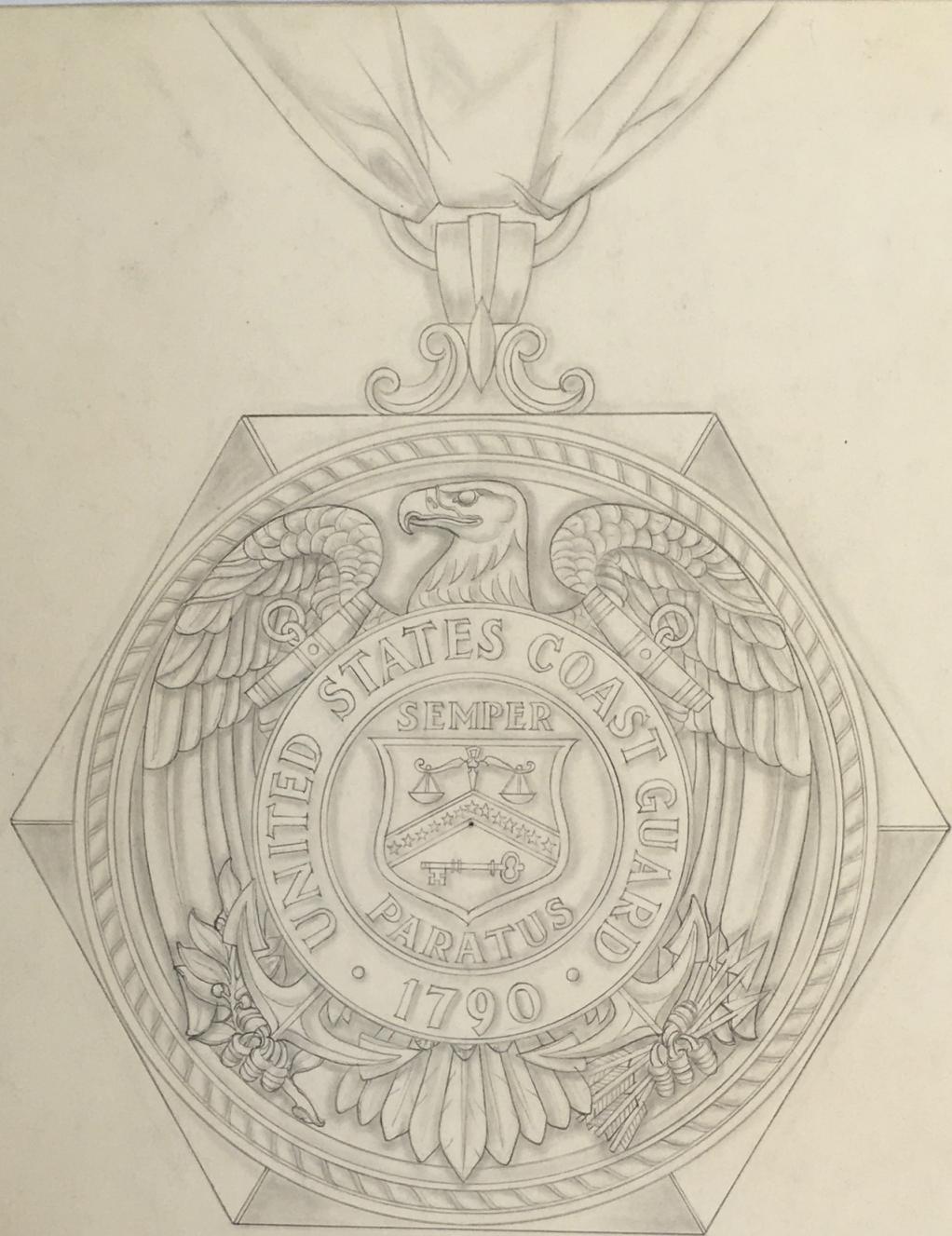








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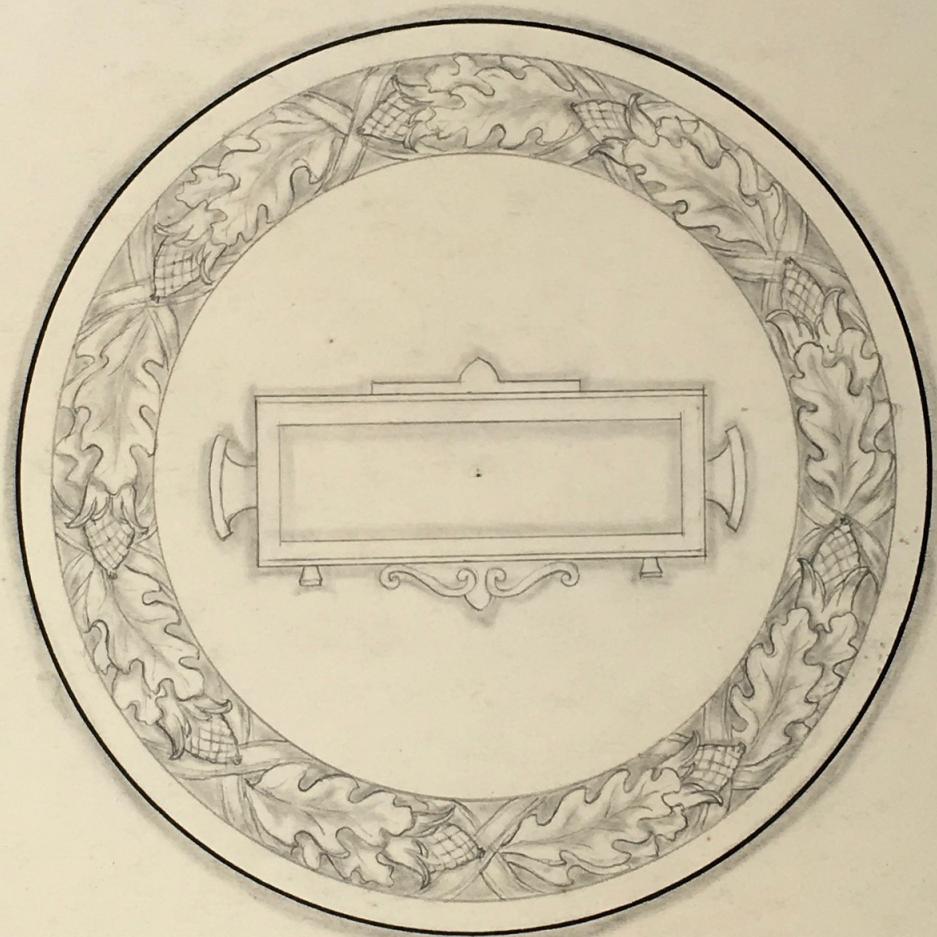






FOR
OUTSTANDING
SERVICE





F. GASPARRO







MES

G-2

F. GASPARRO



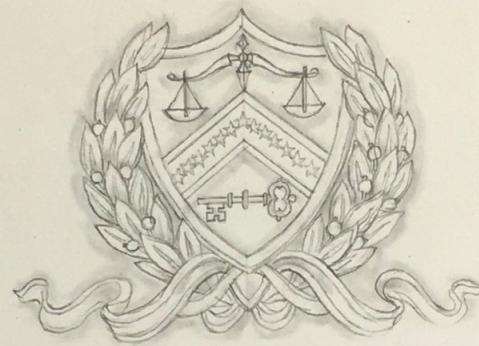
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F. GASPARRO

Item 1



F.GASPARRO



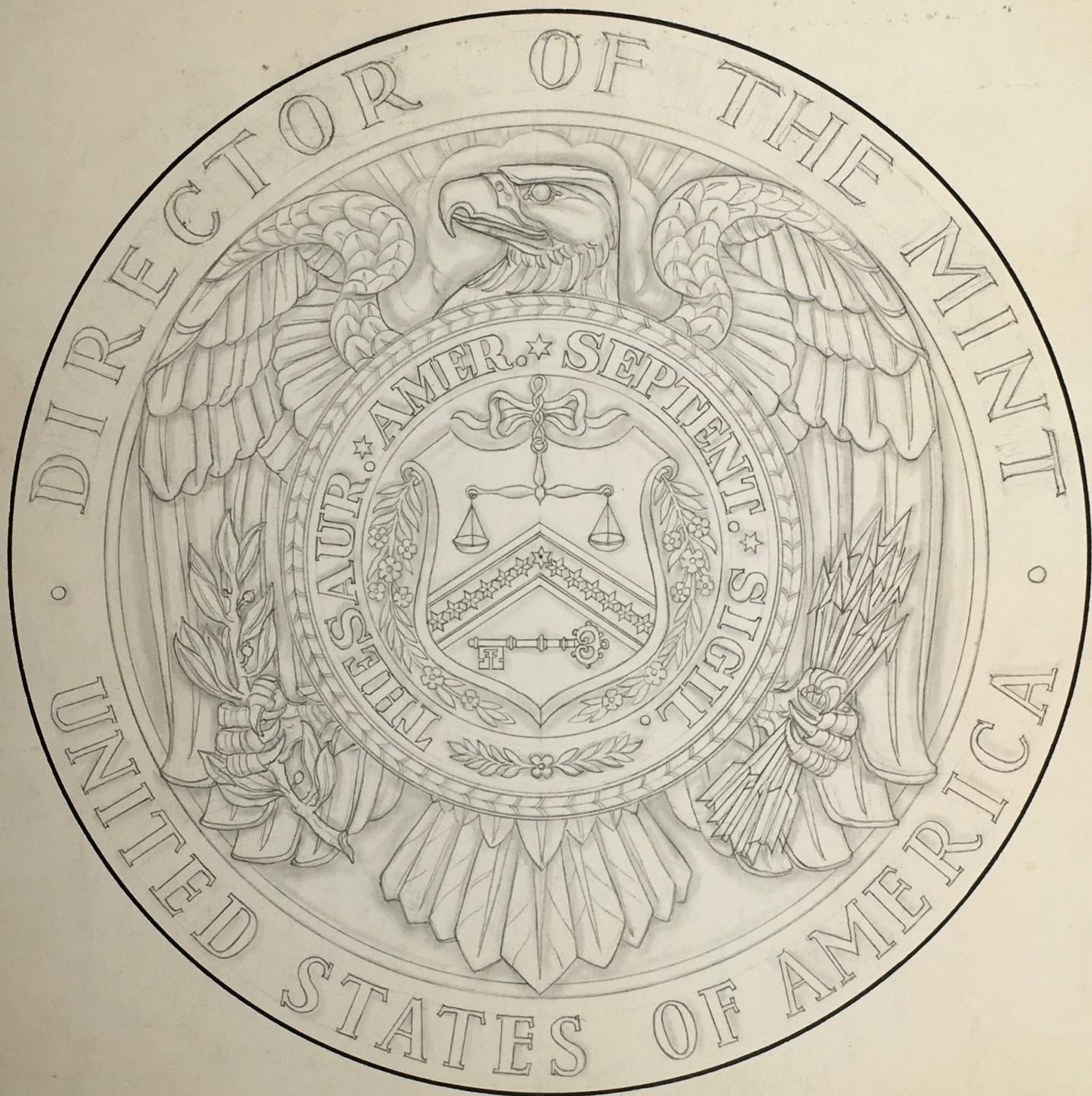
SECRETARY OF THE
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OF AMERICA

IN FIDUCY FOR THE
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE INTEREST OF THE
PEOPLE

FG





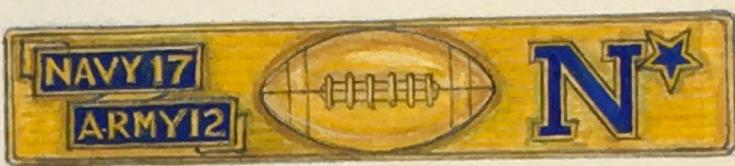


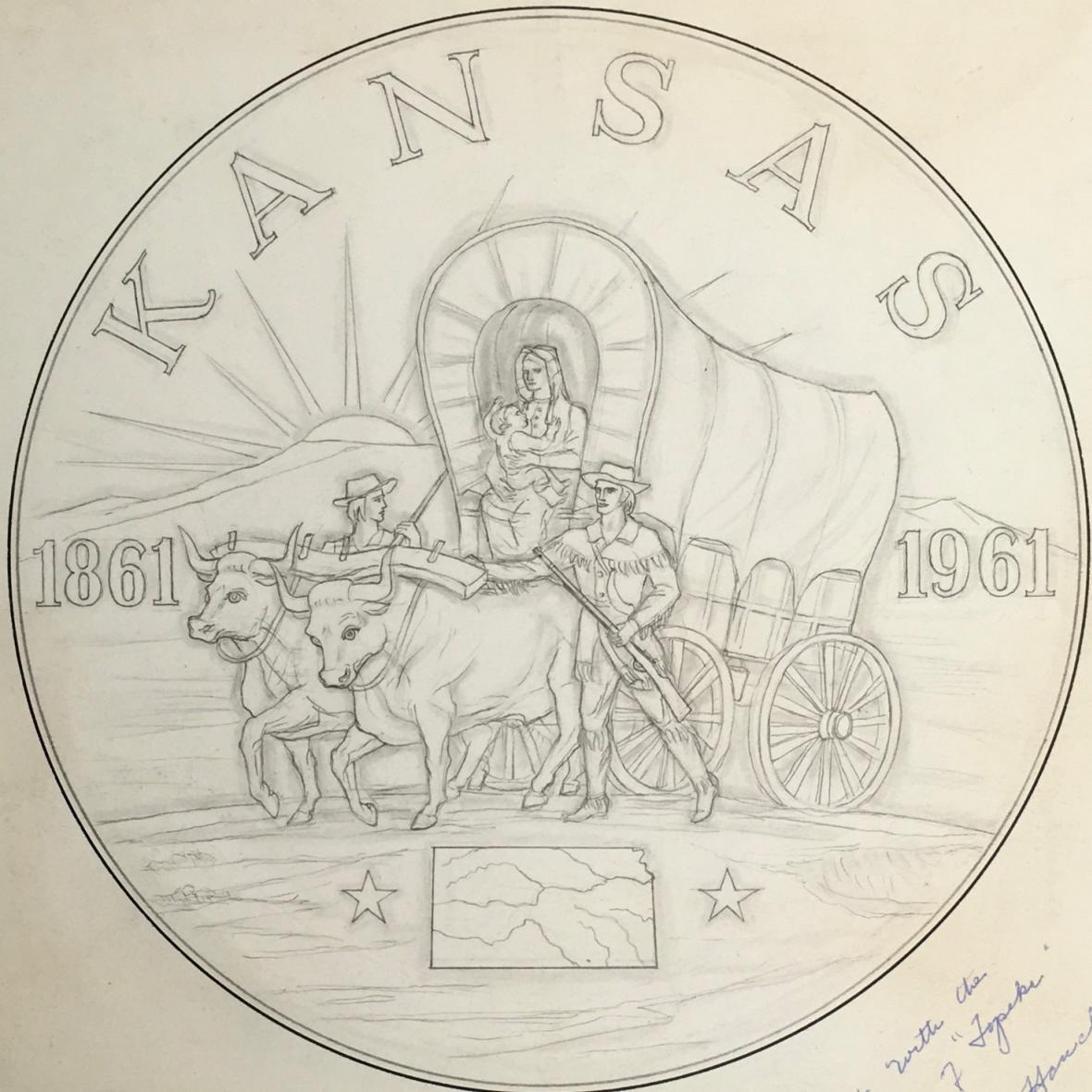


F. GASPARRO



2 1/4"



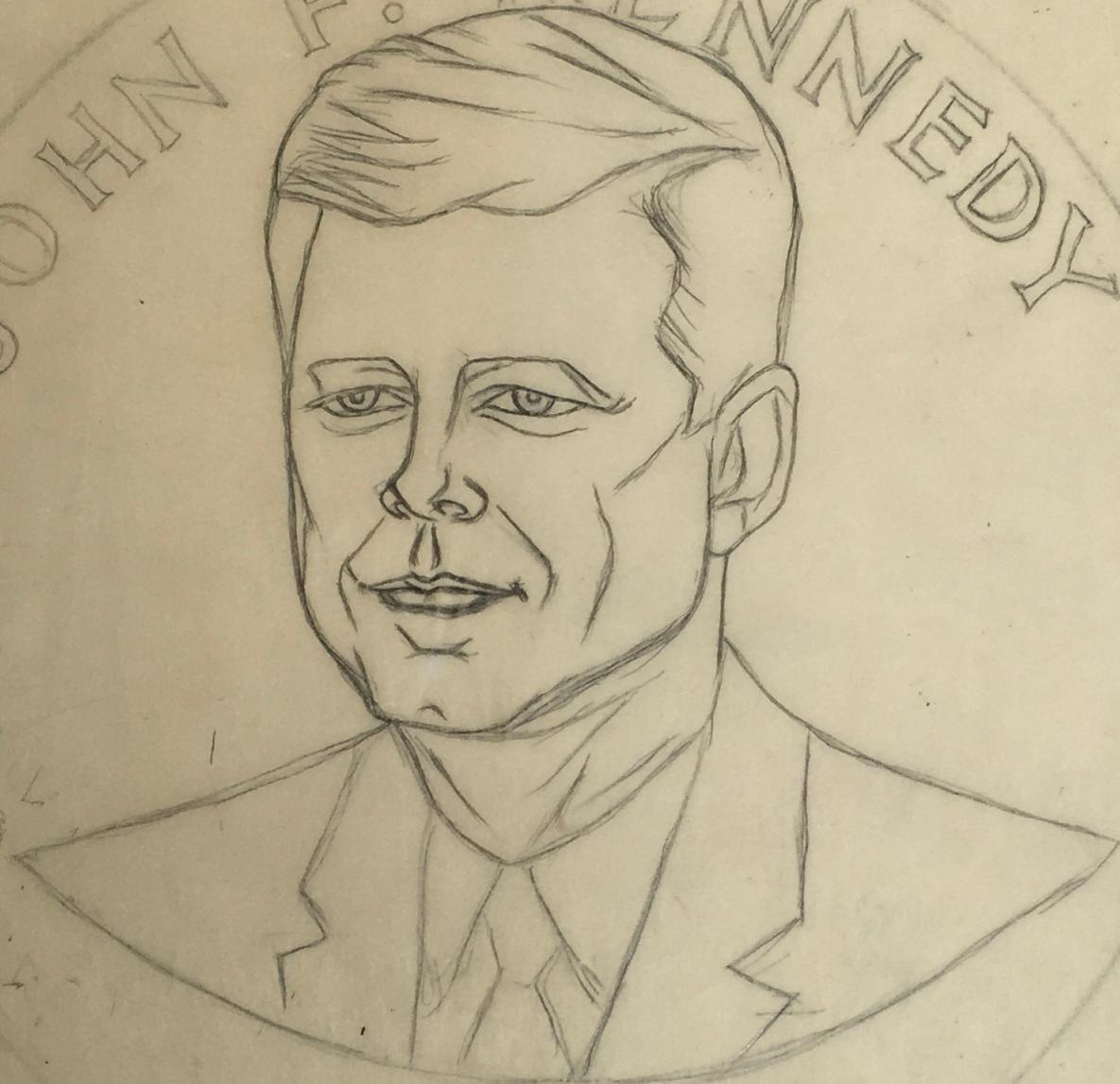


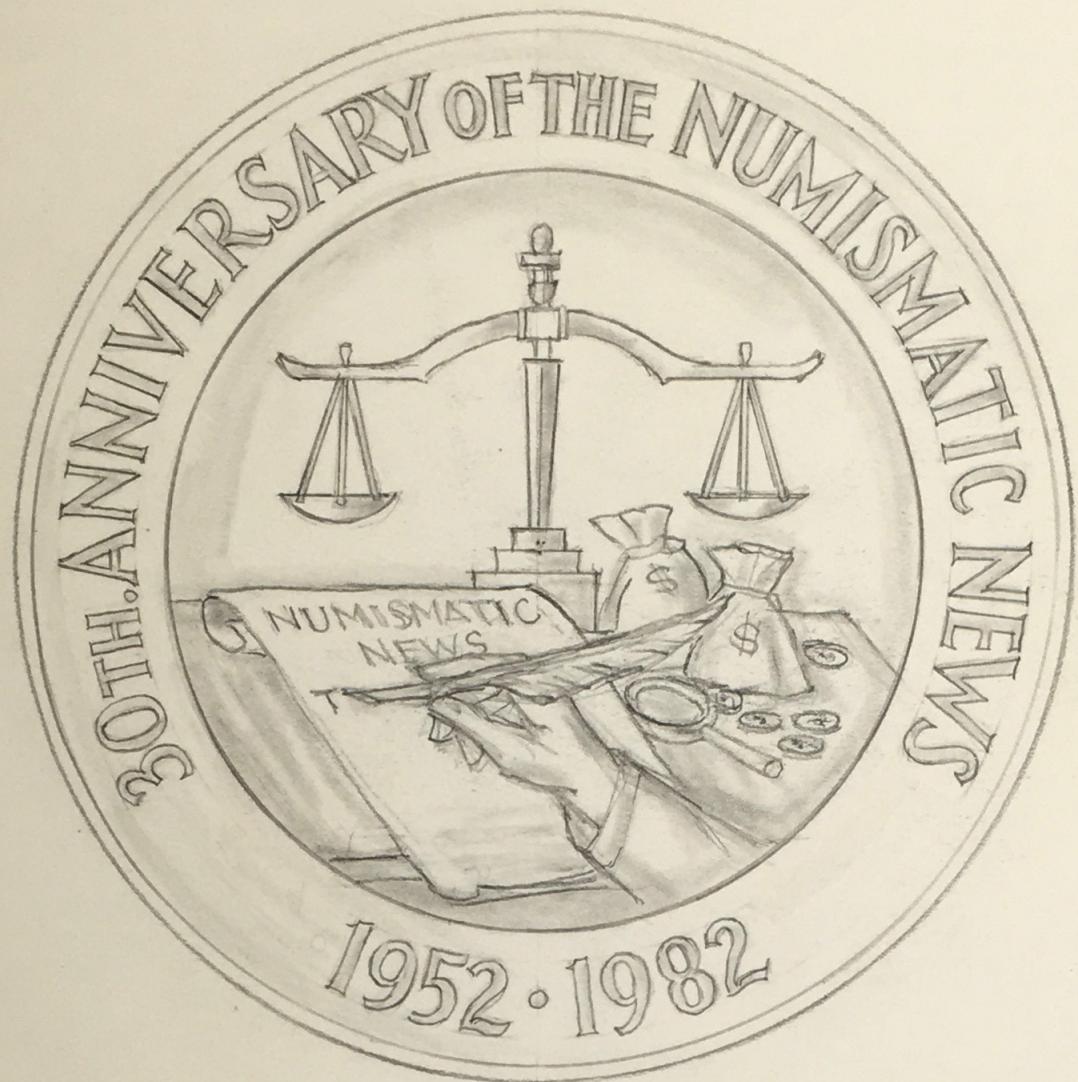
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deletion of "Topeka"
and "Hawarden"





JOHN F. KENNEDY

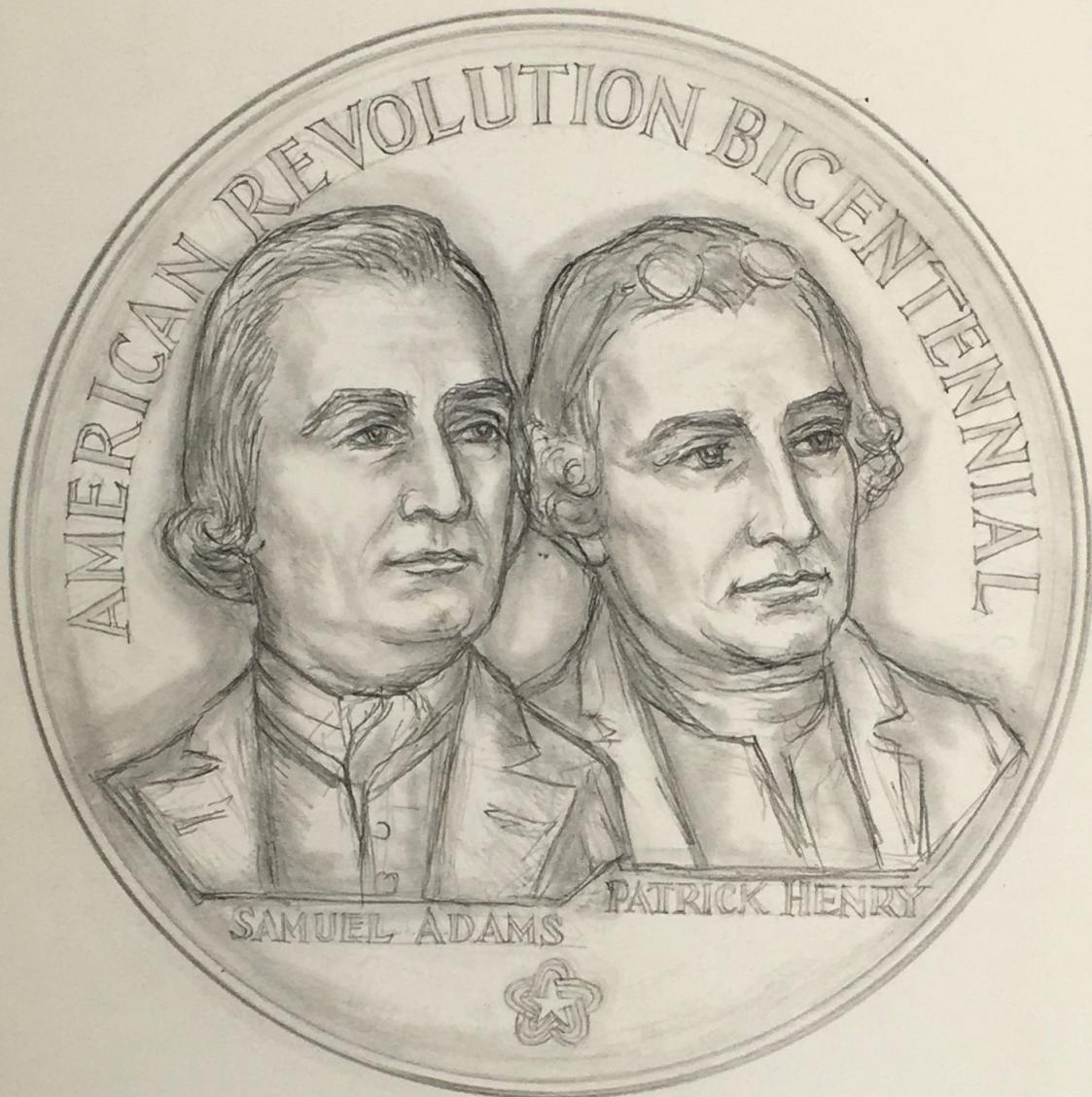




#3 REVERSE



F. CASPARRO



F. GASPARRO US MINT



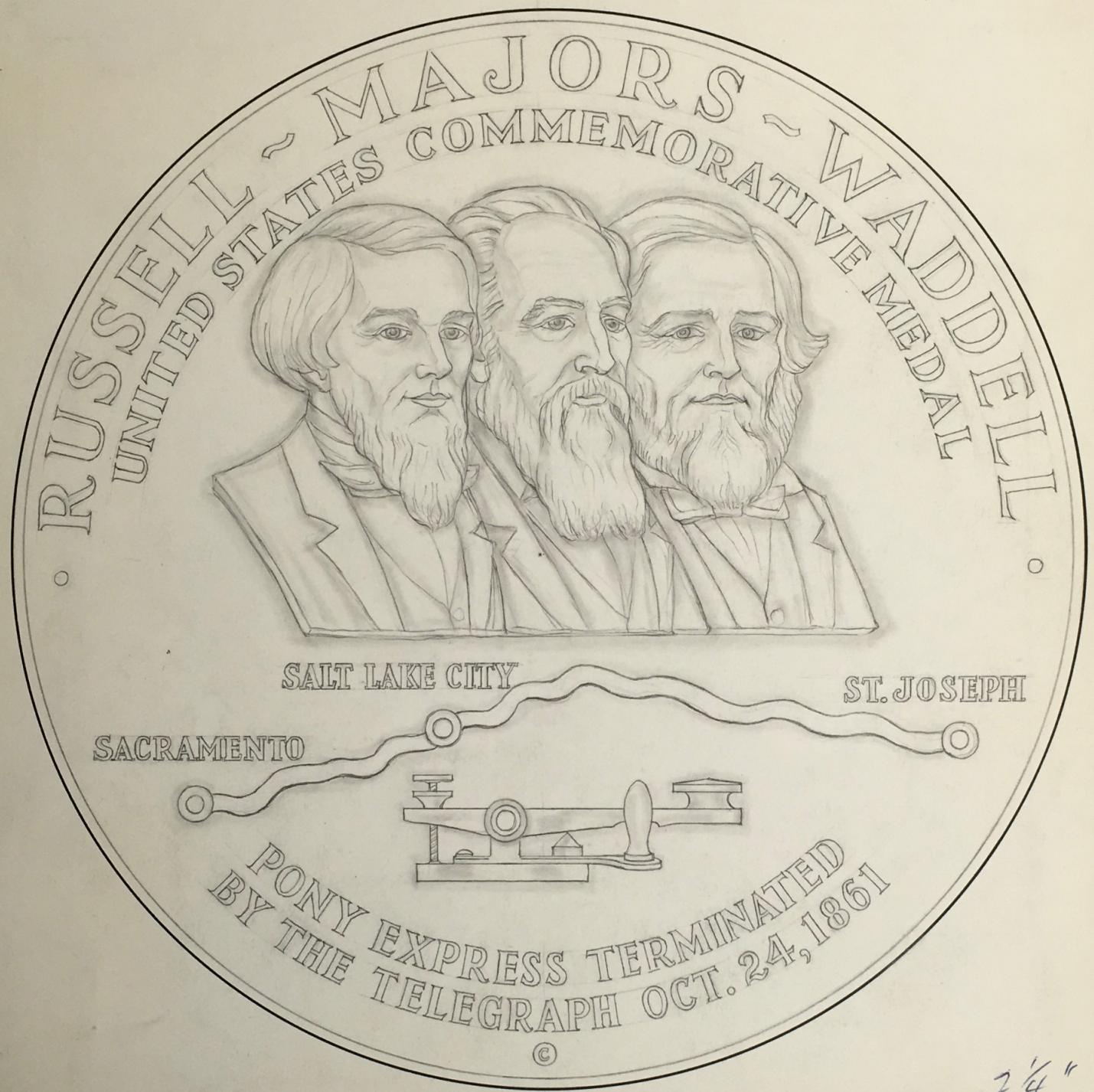


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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UNUM

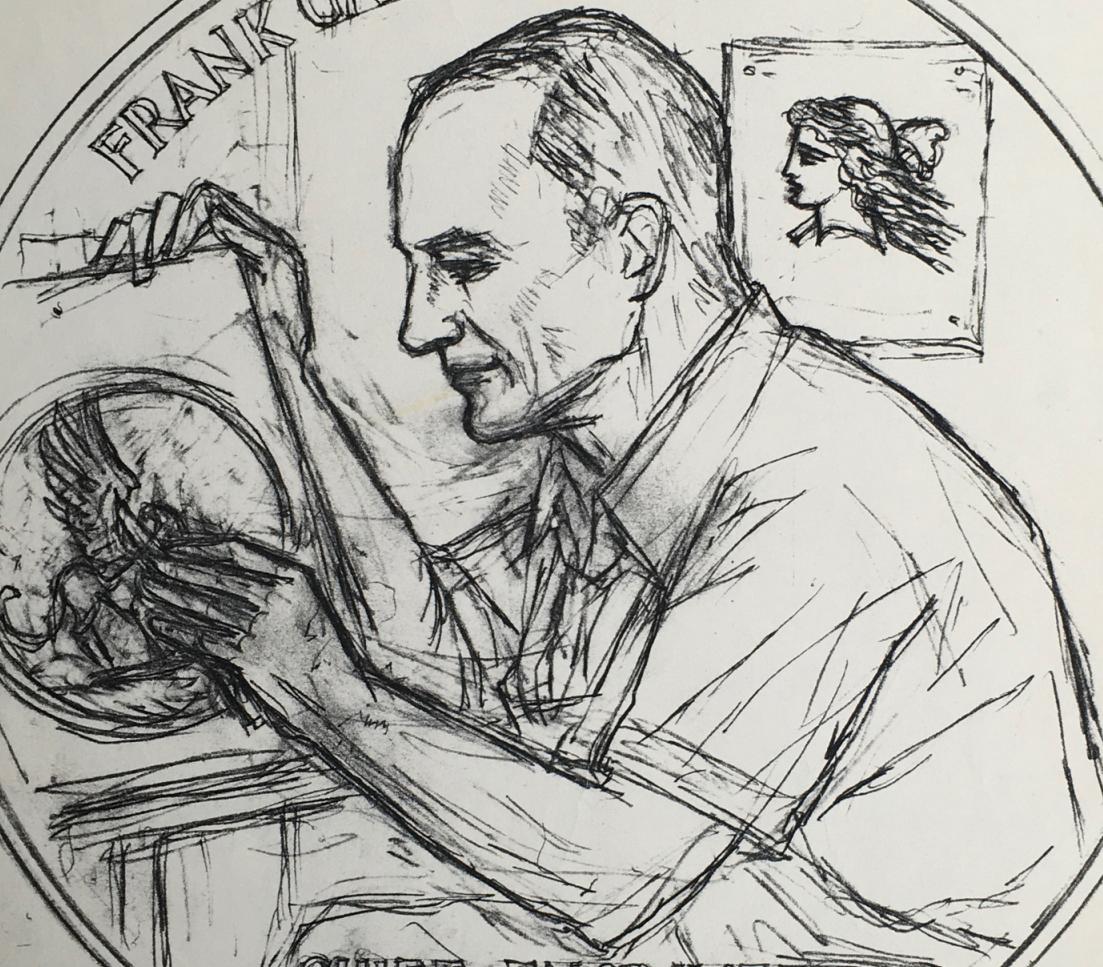
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2 1/4"

F. GASPARRO

FRANK GASPARRO



CHIEF ENGRAVER
U.S. MINT
1965-1981

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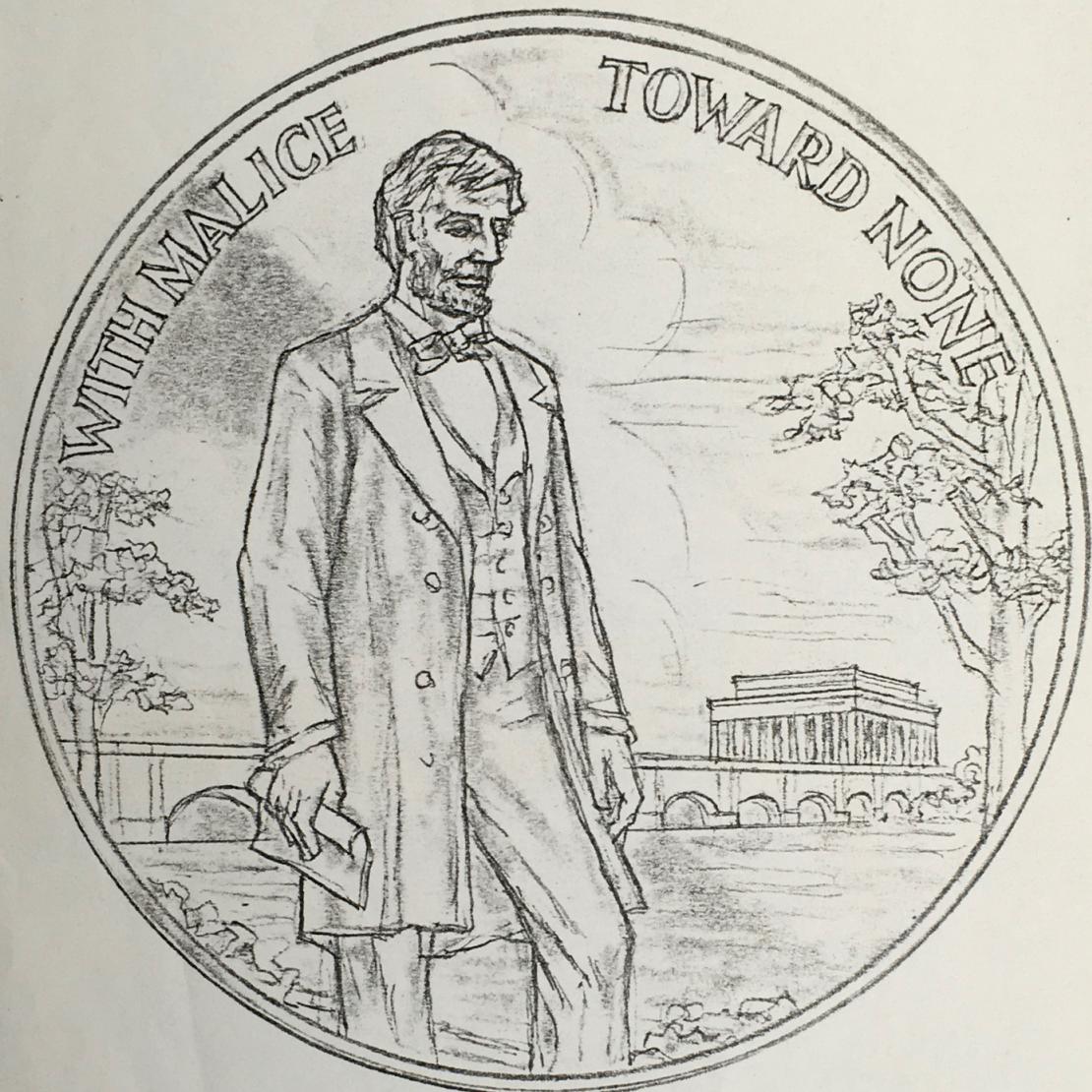


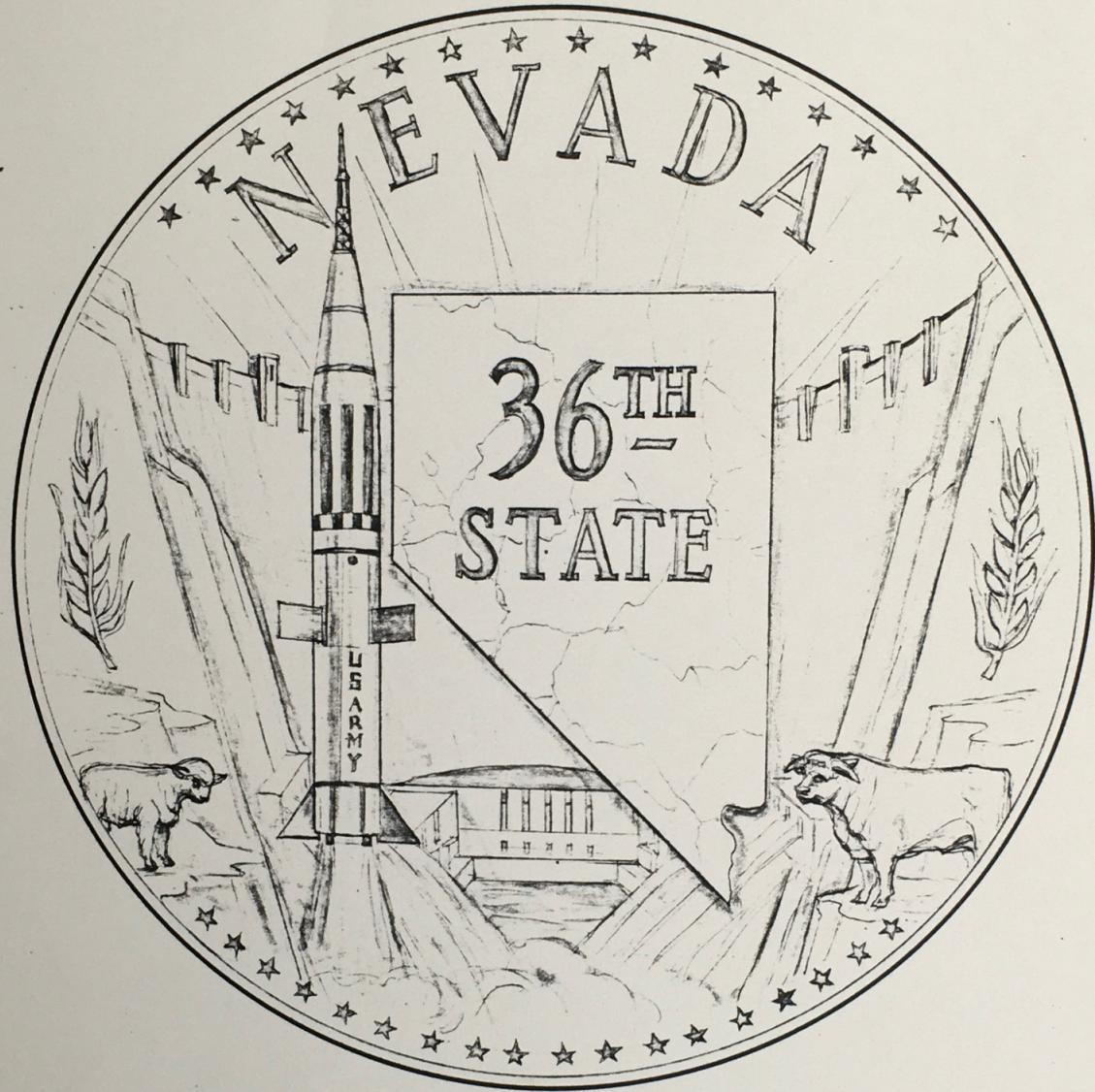
F. GAGNON



#3

F. GASPARRO





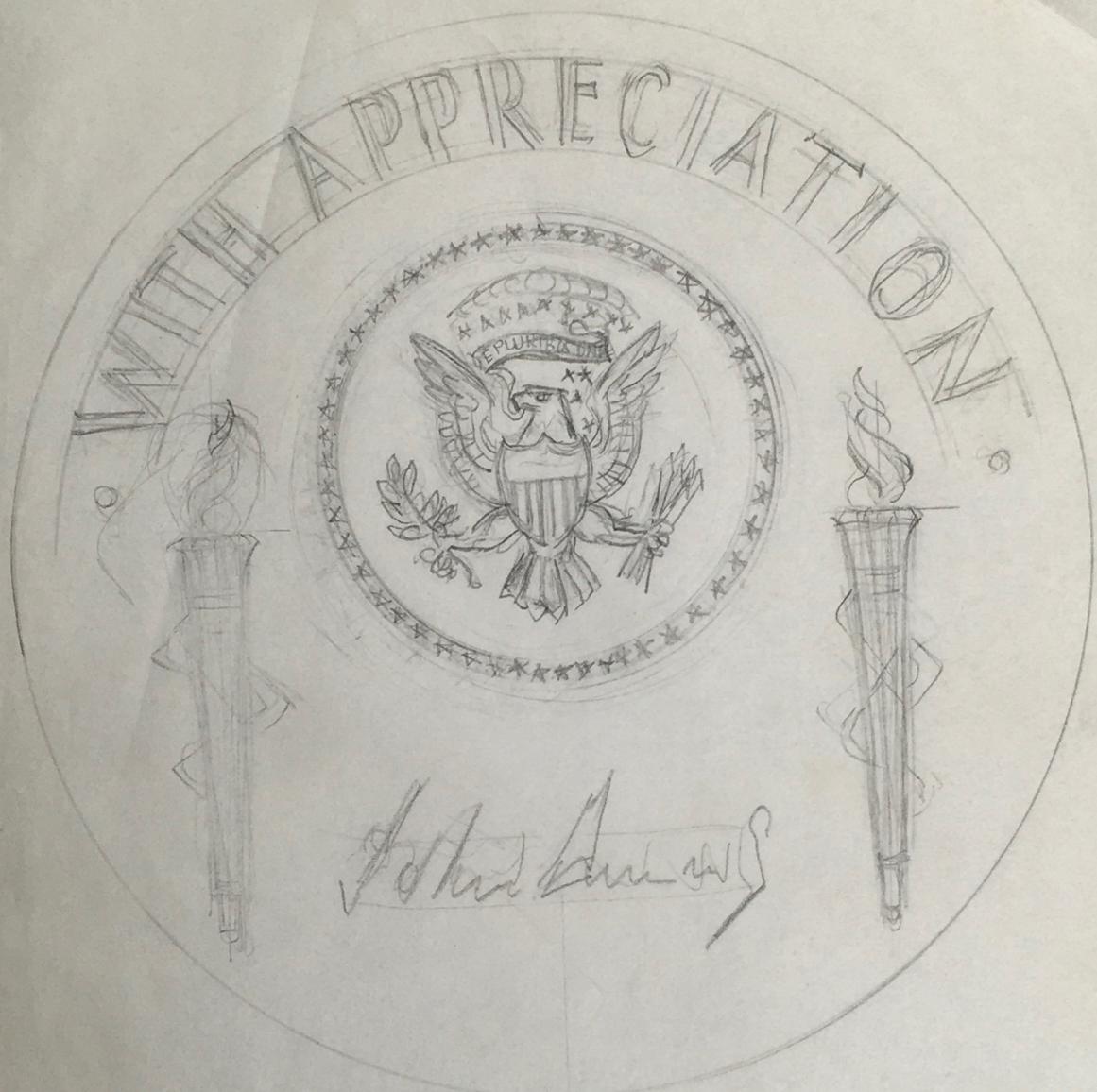
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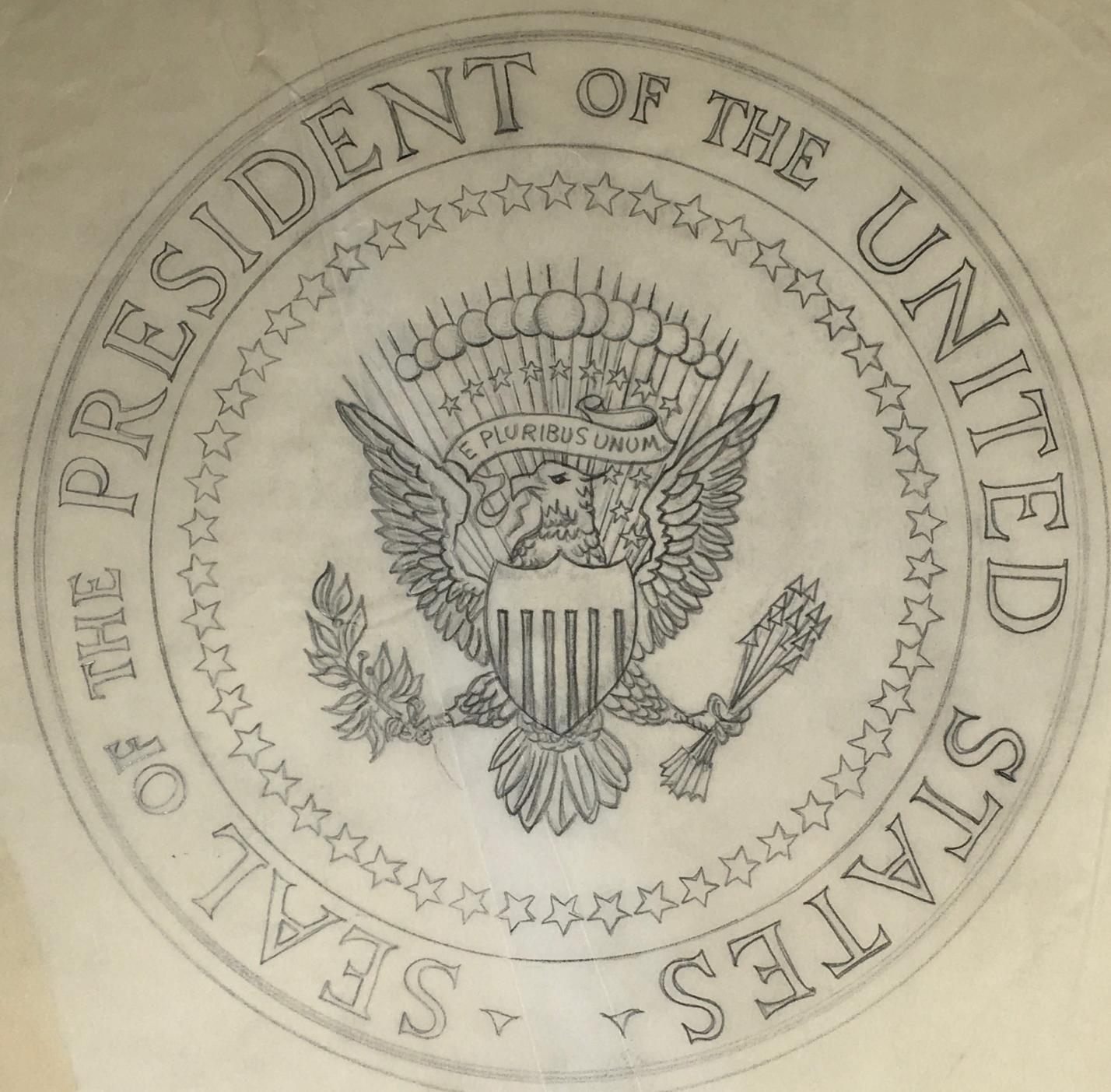




TREASURY DEPARTMENT SEAL







MAVERICK, PUTMAN & PUTMAN

LAWYERS

1000 TRANSIT TOWER

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

MAURY MAVERICK
HAL J. PUTMAN
HAROLD D. PUTMAN
MAURY MAVERICK, JR.
CHARLES W. GRACE

JAMES E. DECKER

June 5, 1952

Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross
Director of the Mint
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Ross:

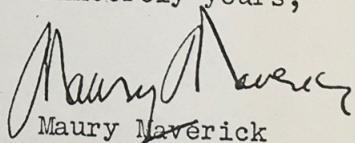
Enclosed herewith is copy of the magazine "Egypt", Spring Edition of 1952. Please see page 6 on an article I have written on the Great Seal.

It is again suggested that the mint produce a Great Seal as a souvenir for the American people. I presume that you would be willing to use the seal which is approved by the Chief Executive of the United States and the Congress of the United States, even though it is different from the one now being sold at the mint.

Some questions seemed to have been raised by Judge Linville of the propriety of issuing a seal at all. My idea is for the mint to issue a Great Seal the size of a dollar with the description on the side, that is to say, the edge where the dollar is usually milled.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Maury Maverick

MM: jcw

Encl:

Lelo
GPW

THE GREAT SEAL of the UNITED STATES

by

MAURY MAVERICK

The founding fathers of the United States were obviously looking toward far horizons when they depicted the eagle on one face of the Great Seal. But they were also conscious of the great heritage of civilization, and its birthplace—Egypt—when they depicted the pyramid on the other face, thus forging this link between the United States and Egypt.

ON June 20, 1782, the Great Seal of the United States was adopted by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. The design was new, revolutionary, and truly American in composition, but contained very substantial portions which were of Egyptian background, including the pyramid. Final adoption came after six years of careful study and research under the difficult conditions of the American Revolution.

The first committee to design a Great Seal was appointed late in the day of July 4, 1776, after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The committee was composed of three able and scholarly men, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin.

In the very first design of the first committee, Thomas Jefferson suggested ideas from the history of Egypt. The committee decided that the Seal was to have two sides, like



Maury Maverick
Of San Antonio, Texas

a coin or medal, and that proposal was followed, with the result that it is the only seal in the world having two sides.

John Adams suggested that one side depict the influence of Stoic ethics by having an image of Hercules represent strength and courage. Thomas Jefferson in his papers stated that he suggested that, in addition to the Egyptian design, shields or symbols of Western Euro-

pean nations be used, with the scales of Justice, the cap of Liberty, and with the Eye of Providence above, and the words "E pluribus unum", and "1776", the last in Roman numerals.

Every design up to final adoption showed the spiritual above the material, a fact that might well be recalled today in the relations of the United States and the Middle East since the religious concepts of both areas of the world have much in common.

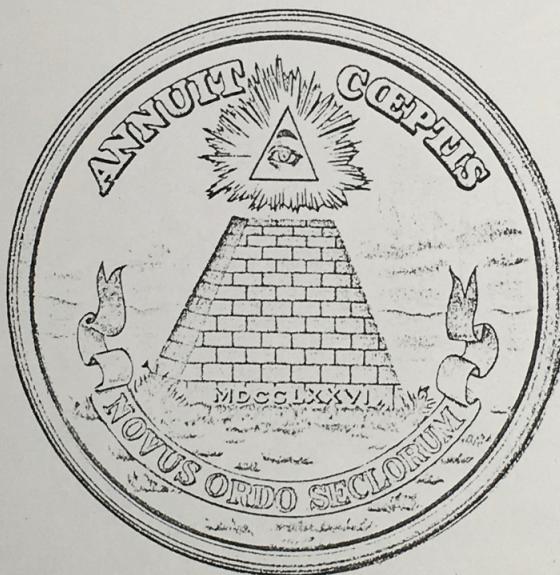
But the designs of the first committee were not even satisfactory to the group itself. Therefore, the matter was passed over by the Continental Congress. However, certain principal ideas of the first committee were included in the final seal. These include one Glory of Heliopolis, "City of the Sun" in Egypt, and another of an eye in a triangle, (also of Middle Eastern origin) together with the motto "E pluribus unum."

Three committees labored over the Great Seal designs over the six-year period during which time the symbols used were made perfectly clear, as shown by official documents. There are no "mystic" qualities about it.

A committee was appointed January 23, 1777, but its reports are lost. Then on March 25, 1780, the "Lovell



FACE



REVERSE



First Seal Design—Face

Committee", usually called the Second Committee, was appointed. James Lovell of Massachusetts was chairman; John Morin Scott of Virginia, and William Churchill Houston of New Jersey were members. Lovell was a school teacher and a graduate of Harvard College. On May 10, 1780, the committee reported with other designs, still maintaining a symbol of the Glory with more mottos such as "Bello Vel Paci" ("Let there be war or Peace") and "Virtute Perennis", (approximately Virtue, or Strength Forever). The designs and ideas were not satisfactory and therefore not accepted by Congress.

The study of the Great Seal continued. Then in early May, 1782, the Third Committee was appointed. It included Arthur Middleton of South Carolina, Elias Boudinot of New Jersey, and Edward Rutledge of South Carolina. The two South Carolinians were of foreign education and were well-informed on British heraldry and the use of escutcheons and shields. Boudinot then had knowledge of coins and medals. He was later director of the Mint in Philadelphia.

It is important to again emphasize that nowhere in the United States Great Seal was there included or intended any "mysticism", as some writers are ready to assert. One book which was used by the creators of the Seal for the definitions, coloring and design was "The Elements of

THE EAGLE OF DEMOCRACY

Above the "Eagle of Democracy" is a Glory (of God), a ring of light in gold. This indicates the spiritual above the material as well as civil freedoms. The tufted, or Prussian, eagle was once considered for the design but the "bald American" eagle was the one finally used. The eagle represents national sovereignty, and also indicates the negation of colonialism. Inside the Glory are thirteen stars, a "constellation" (thirteen letters) of States, representing the Thirteen Original States.

The top of the shield in blue represents Congress, free elections, representative democracy and justice. The best opinion in heraldry holds that the head of the bald eagle represents the Executive Branch. The rudder of the State, the nine tail feathers, represents the Judiciary. Thus the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial are united and complete, with a motto in the beak of the Eagle, *E Pluribus Unum*, (again thirteen letters, "out of many, one").

The vertical stripes, red and white, in the shield represent the first idea of a United Nations or United States. In the right talon of the Eagle are thirteen green olive leaves and seeds which always represented peace to the Chaldean, Judaic, Egyptian, and other Middle Eastern cultures. In the left claw are thirteen arrows, of American Indian origin, symbolizing war. The head of the American Eagle always turns toward the olives, indicating a desire for peace, even during war; but the arrows represent war as a national instrument of power.



First Seal Design—Reverse

Heraldry", by Professor Mark Anthony Pony of Eton College, published in London, 1765. Its contents are referred to and explained in some detail for the first time in this article. In definitions and descriptions, in the Statute adopting the Seal, exact words and directions are taken directly from this book, as well as the colors or "tinctures" and designs. This is not a matter of conjecture, as the use of the book is clearly established by correspondence still in existence, and by exact comparisons. All of the material here referred to, with original drawings and reports, is in the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

The Pony work is an exposition of British or Western heraldry and states in the very beginning that heraldry originated through the Egyptians, and "their Hieroglyphics." Throughout the book, the Egyptian origin of heraldry is emphasized. This British book shows a chart of races or nations with their heraldic use of birds and animals, the Egyptians being indicated as original or first, and that their designs included the Eagle. But the Seal adopted went beyond Western heraldry with the independent adoption of the pyramid, making it the only seal in the world using it.

It is well known that not only Jefferson and Adams but nearly all members of the various committees con-

cerned with the Seal were versed in foreign languages and their interest in Egypt had developed from reading Herodotus, Pliny, Plutarch, and other ancient writers who had discussed Egypt, its history and culture.

The third committee received the aid of William Barton, M.A., the son of an Episcopal minister. Barton was an authority on heraldry who owned a copy of "The Elements of Heraldry". He suggested two very elaborate and complicated designs, one of which contains the incomplete pyramid which was adopted. Finally, out of all the designs, the Great Seal of the United States was assembled and simplified by Charles Thompson, secretary of Congress, presented to Congress, and adopted with descriptions and explanations.

THE PYRAMID OF PROGRESS

The Egyptian influence in the design can be noted in the pyramid or "mastaba" ("mastaba" is an Arabic word which means a raised tribune but which to Western minds means an incomplete pyramid) which represents the "Solid Strength and Duration" as stated in the law adopted by Congress. The Eye of Providence, or the "All-Seeing Eye" within a Glory, also of Middle Eastern origin, is above the pyramid and indicates the spiritual above the material. The Eye also indicates education, and freedom of knowledge. The words "Annuit Coeptis" (thirteen letters) mean "God has favored our Undertakings", or "Enterprise."

The unfinished pyramid means that the United States will always build, grow, improve, with a continuous evaluation of Truth. The thirteen layers of the pyramid refer to the Thirteen States, and the rights of States. The separate stones represent local self-government. At the bottom are the words "Novus Ordo Seclorum", meaning the "New Order of the Ages", beginning in 1776.

Many of the words and symbols

are in "thirteens", because of the original Thirteen States.

The clear meanings of these symbols were then and now: The Law, the supremacy of the spiritual above the material, and the rights of the individual. These are integral parts of the ideals, philosophy, and religion of the Islamic, Christian, and Judaic scriptures. This unity of ideals, and specifically the meaning of the Great Seal itself, plead affirmatively and positively for the freedom of peoples, and the independence of all nations from imperialism, colonialism, or totalitarianism.

The Christian Bible says, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." ROMANS 12:21. In the Koran one reads, "Repel evil with that which is best." S. XXXII:96.

The Great Seal is on every United States paper dollar and is also affixed to all important commissions signed by the President, on treaties, and on the "executuurs" of foreign consuls. The Eagle side is displayed on the Congressional Record in black and white, and in colors at our foreign offices overseas. It also is on the cap of every enlisted man of the United States Army and Air Force.



Maury Maverick is a San Antonio, Texas, lawyer who served as a member of the House of Representatives in the 74th and 75th Congresses of the United States and was formerly Mayor of San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Maverick has made a study of the Great Seal over a period of many years and is a student of Middle Eastern and Far Eastern cultural affairs.

Egyptian Earthworms Help U. S. Soil Fertilization

It's hard to believe, but many American farmers and amateur gardeners are hiring Egyptian labor!

Millions of tiny Egyptian earthworms have been brought from the rich, productive ground of the Nile Valley to the United States to work in the soils to improve fertilization.

The theory of the earthworm as a fertilizing agent is simple and is almost as old as the soil in which it lives. Presence of the little creatures in the soil keeps it loose and porous. They produce their own weight in castings every 24 hours, breaking down whatever they eat into the richest type of fertilizer. The worm actually takes care of decomposing Nature's own products such as garbage, paper, leather, or any waste material, and distributes it as castings, evenly throughout the soil.

On its ranch in Hemet, California, the Nutrilite Corporation grows alfalfa, and constantly experiments to increase the quality and production per acre of the crops. A few months ago, 100 cultures of Egyptian hybrid earthworms were purchased. With 500 worms in each culture, Company Agronomist Horton Sherwood estimates there should be enough worms in a year to cover five or ten acres.

Egyptian hybrids were chosen because they have three distinct advantages over the local breeds. The first is that they do not migrate, and will stay indefinitely in the area in which they are "planted," providing sufficient food is furnished. They reproduce about 17 times faster than native worms will in the same period of time, and they do not come to the top of the ground to leave their castings. By staying constantly under the soil, there is no danger of birds carrying them off, and they work the sub-soil as well as the top soil.

Sherwood keeps the culture beds in which he is breeding the worms wet down at all times, and feeds them mostly alfalfa roots and stems.

September 30, 1946

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Bartelt
FROM: Mr. Howard (signed) Leland Howard

In re: Great Seal of the United States.

In 1943 we had some correspondence with Mr. Maury Maverick in regard to the Mint Medal as compared with the Seal now being used by the State Department and at the time wrote to the Philadelphia Mint and received reports from the Engraver, copies of which are attached. One of our staff did some preliminary research on the subject, but was forced to abandon it because of the pressing demands of other work. Since there is no immediate possibility of its being again taken up, I am sending you the following resume of the information found.

The Treasury Library contains the "History of the Great Seal", (published by the State Department in 1909) by Gaillard Hunt, then Chief of MSS Division, Library of Congress. Since Mr. Hunt had been for a long time in the State Department, and since he edited the Journals of the Continental Congress from the original records in the Library of Congress, his history can we believe, be regarded as authentic.

According to Mr. Hunt, there were three seals made. Concerning the seal in use in 1882, he states that it was made in 1841 by Edward Stabler of Sandy Spring, Maryland, and that it was used until 1884 when a new die and design were made. Mr. Hunt says of the 1884 design, which is apparently the one now in use:

"The design of the obverse of the seal of 1884 was determined upon, as we have seen, with great care. It was an enlargement with some modifications of the seal of 1782, the modifications being in the direction of closer adherence to the law creating the seal."

The report of the Director of the Mint of 1882 lists two dies as having been made for the Seal of the United States Medal. Since this was before the revision of the Seal in 1884 it appears that the medal must have been based upon the seal then in use. A comparison of the medal with the State Department documents of that date would be the only way to settle that question. The mint medal and the seal now in use differ.

Mr. Bartelt

-2-

September 30, 1946

I hope that the above information will be of assistance. If there is any other way in which we can help, we will be very glad to do so. We only regret that we are unable at the present, with the other demands made upon our limited staff, to go further into the matter ourselves.

IPD:mt

September 25, 1943.

Hon. Maury Maverick, Director,
Government Division,
War Production Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Maverick:

Pursuant to your inquiry of September 17th, I have asked the Philadelphia Mint for a statement on the Mint medal of The Great Seal. I am today in receipt of the following reply from the Engraver:

"The medal issued by the Mint was first struck in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the designation by law of the Great Seal, and this accounts for the two dates, 1782 and 1882 in the right and left fields of the reverse. The dies for this commemorative medal were engraved by Mr. Charles Barber, Mint Engraver at that time.

"The difference between the medal and the seal as used on the new one dollar bills is due, I believe, entirely to the artist's own individual interpretation in each case. The two are the same in all the essentials, as embodied in the WRITTEN DESCRIPTION included in the Fundamental Law. The principal differences are the insertion of the two dates mentioned above and the ribbon bearing motto at the base of the pyramid. It should be noted that there is no mention of this ribbon in the original written description. This was, I believe, inserted by the artist engraving the original design in order to improve in his estimation the general composition and for added enrichment, a justifiable artistic license. This also explains the variations on the obverse of the seal.

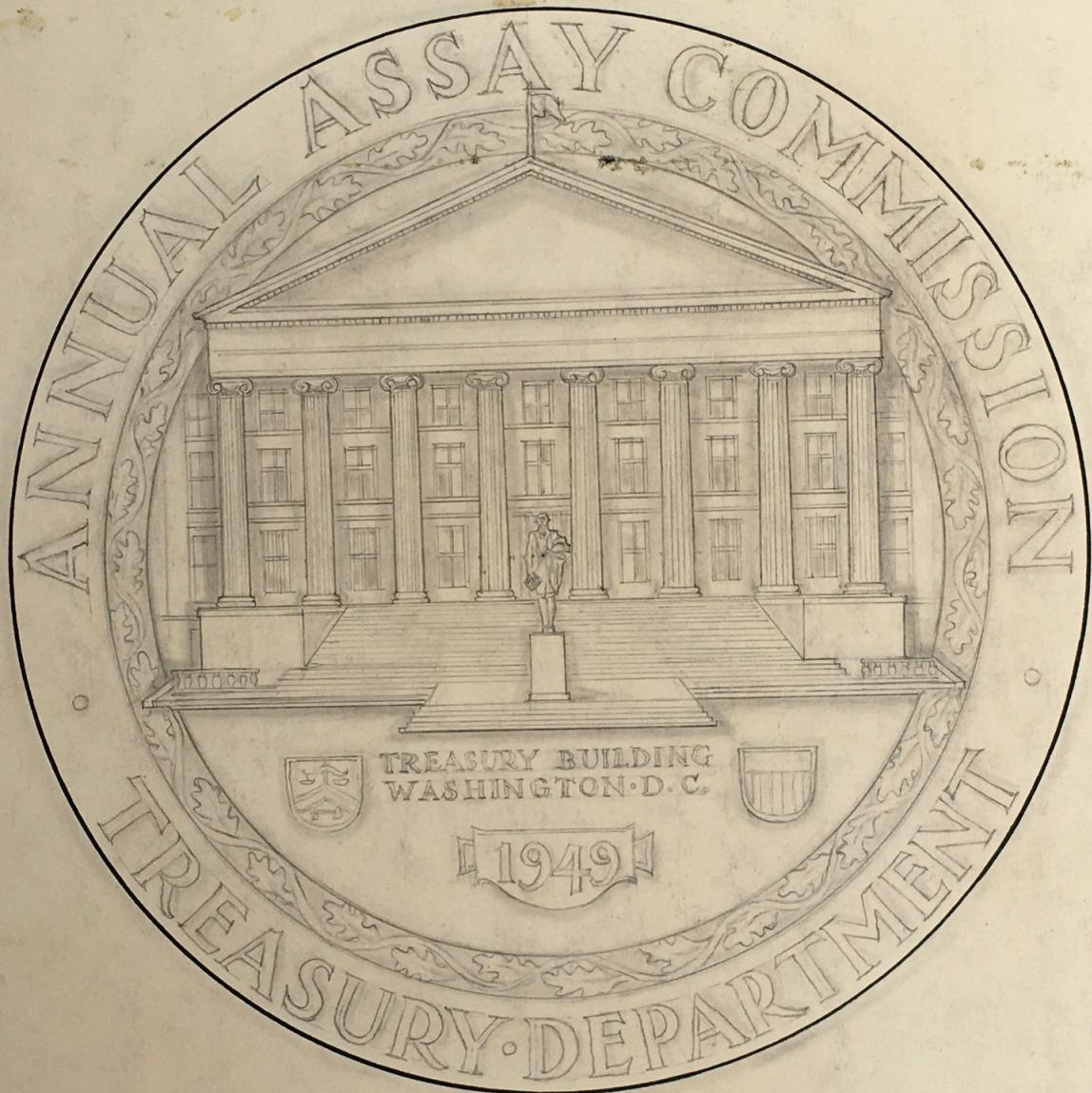
"Seals are in the same class with coats-of-arms in heraldry which may be rendered with considerable variation of style, to harmonize with the medium employed, and in the artist's own individual technique, so long as the essential motifs and legends are retained and these in proper order."

Very truly yours,

Nellie Tayloe Ross

Director of the Mint.

/eh







CELESTE

2020

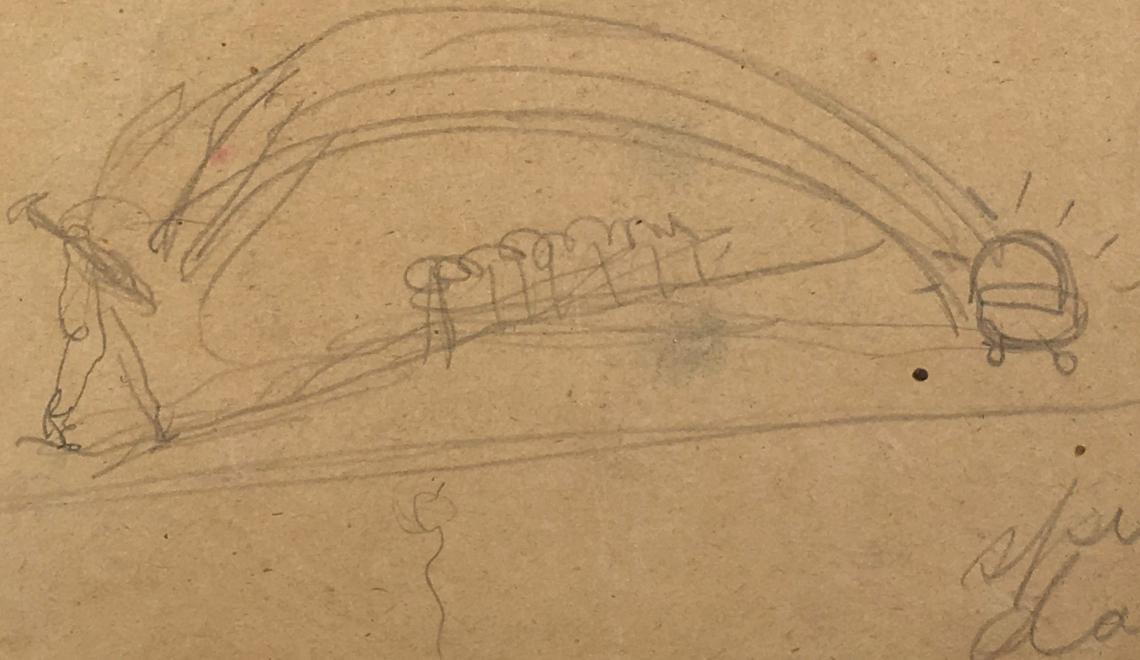
2020

2020

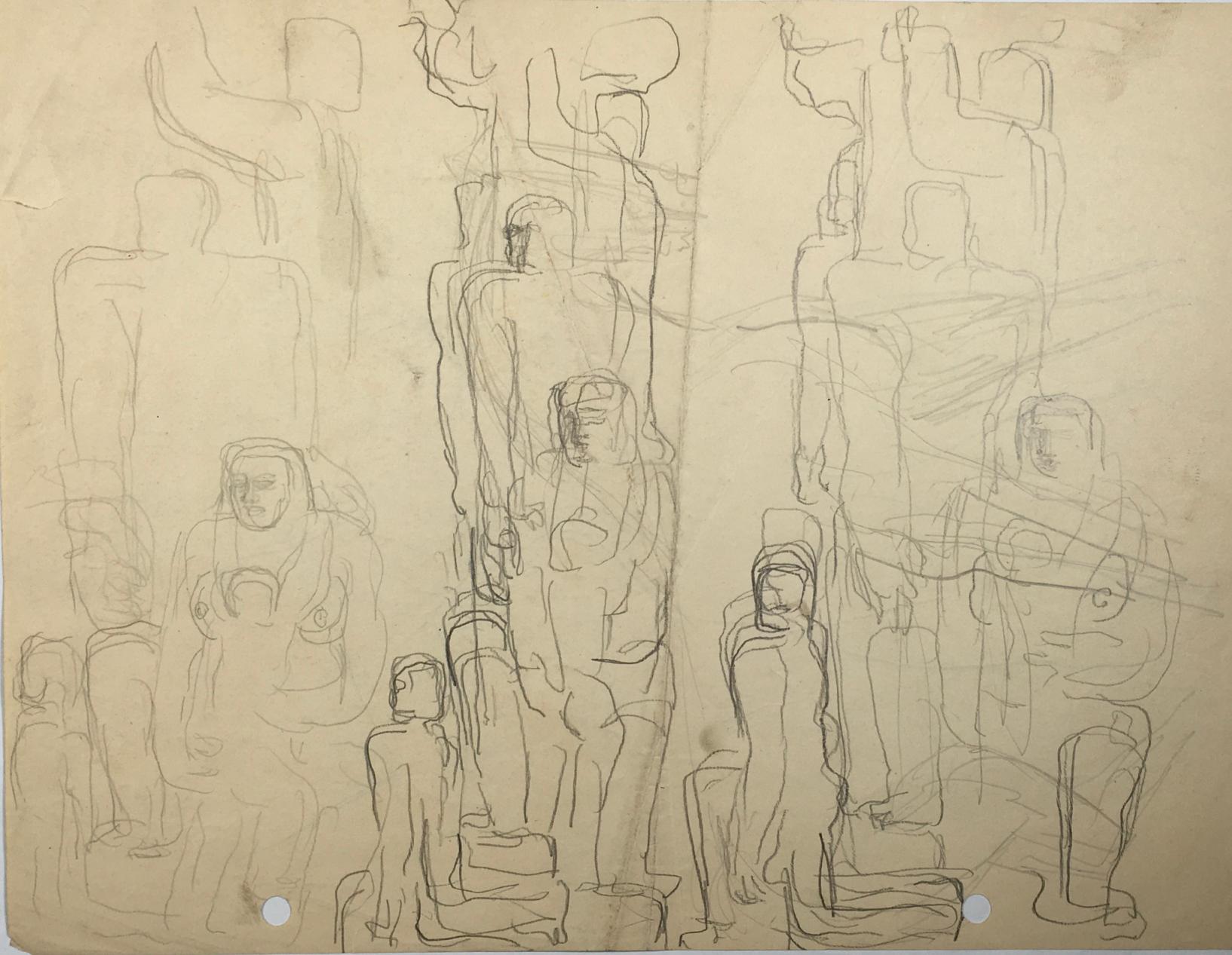
2020

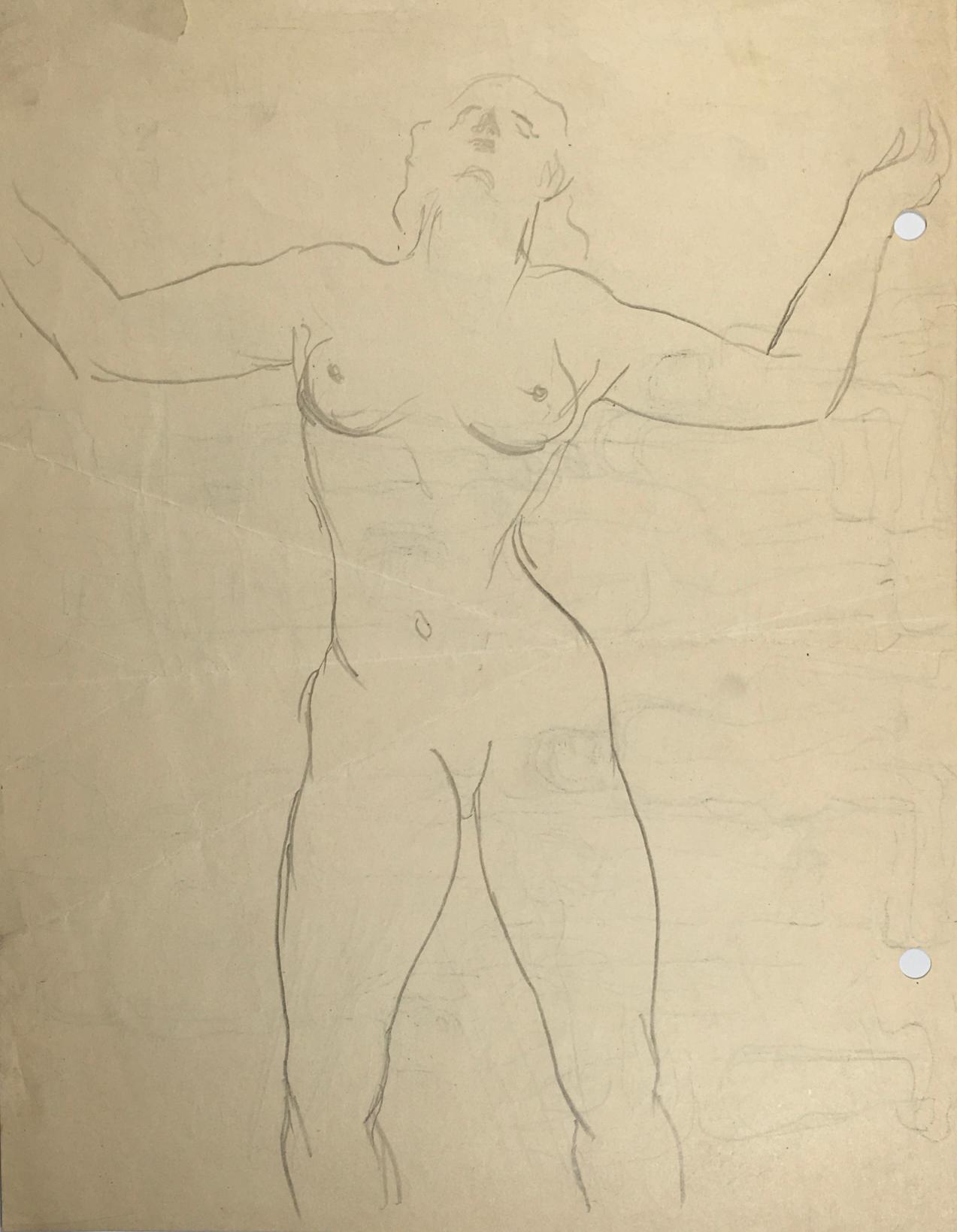


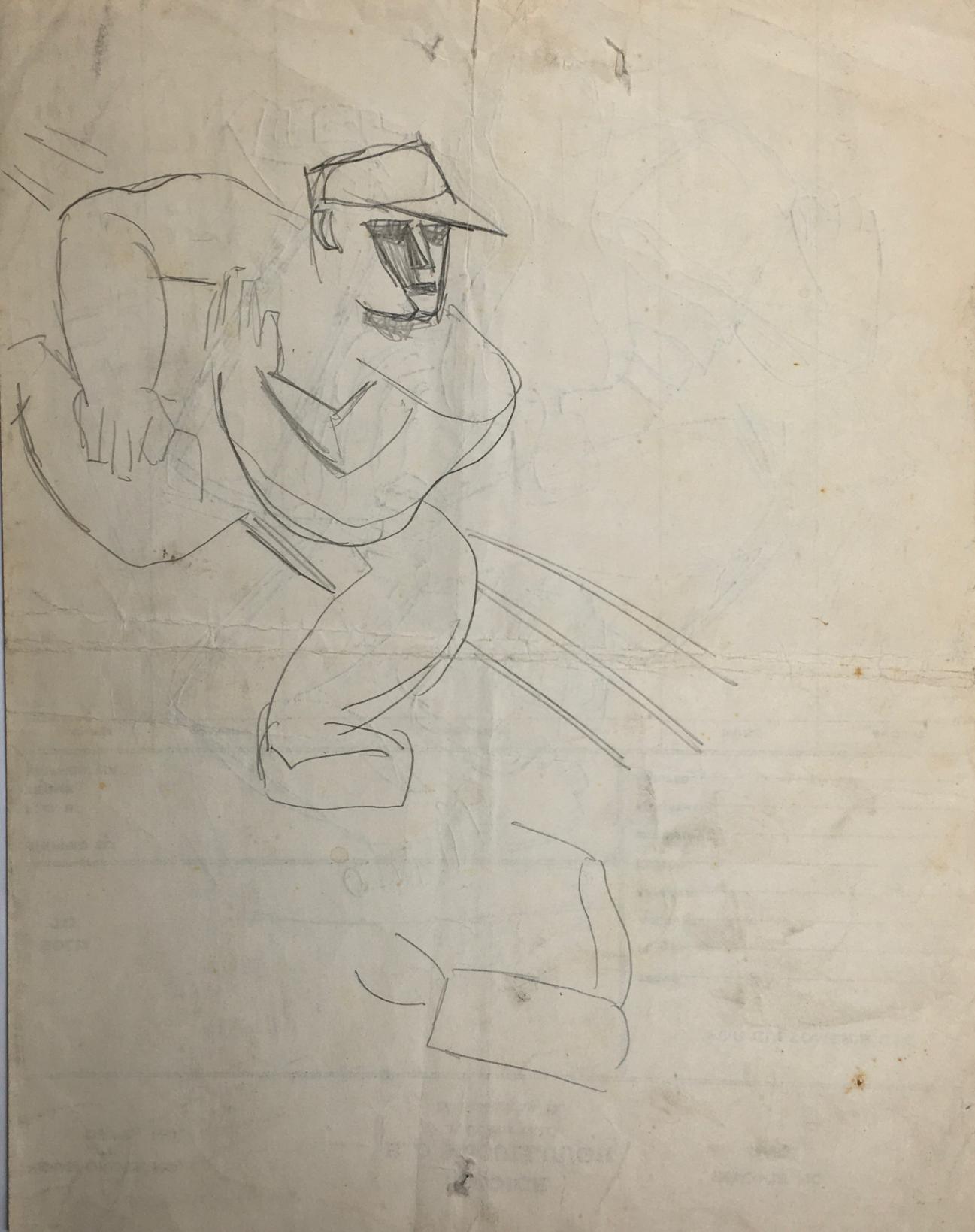




spirit of
dog







YOUR ORDER NO.

" DEPT. NO.

INVOICE

E. D. McCULLOUGH

P. O. Box 6822

N. Philadelphia, Pa.

INVOICE NO.

DATE

SOLD
TO

SHIPPED TO

F. O. B.

TERMS

SHIPPED VIA

FOR CUSTOMER'S USE

TERMS _____

F. O. B. _____

ACCOUNT _____

APPROVAL _____

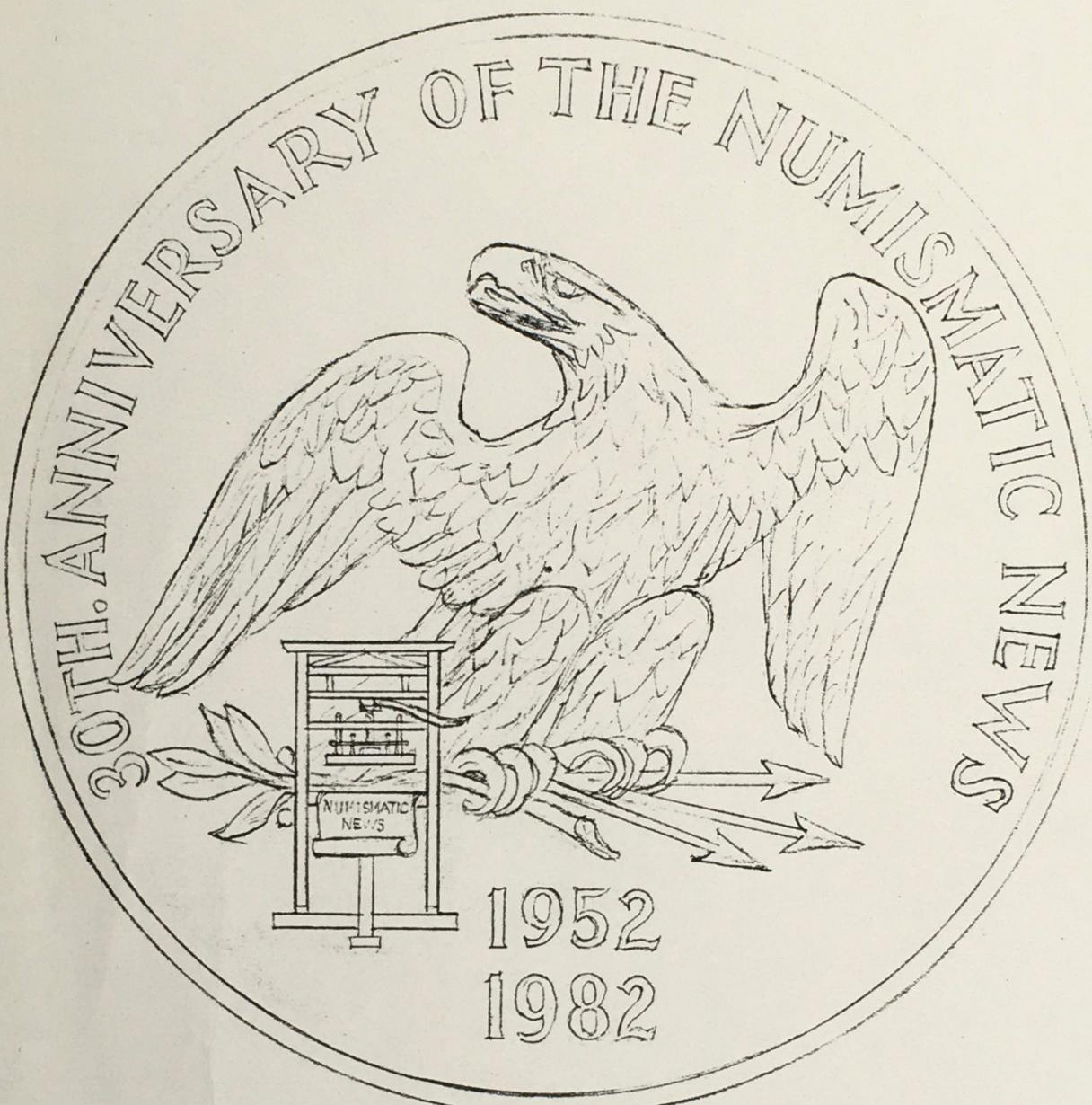
RECEIVAL _____

EXTENSION _____

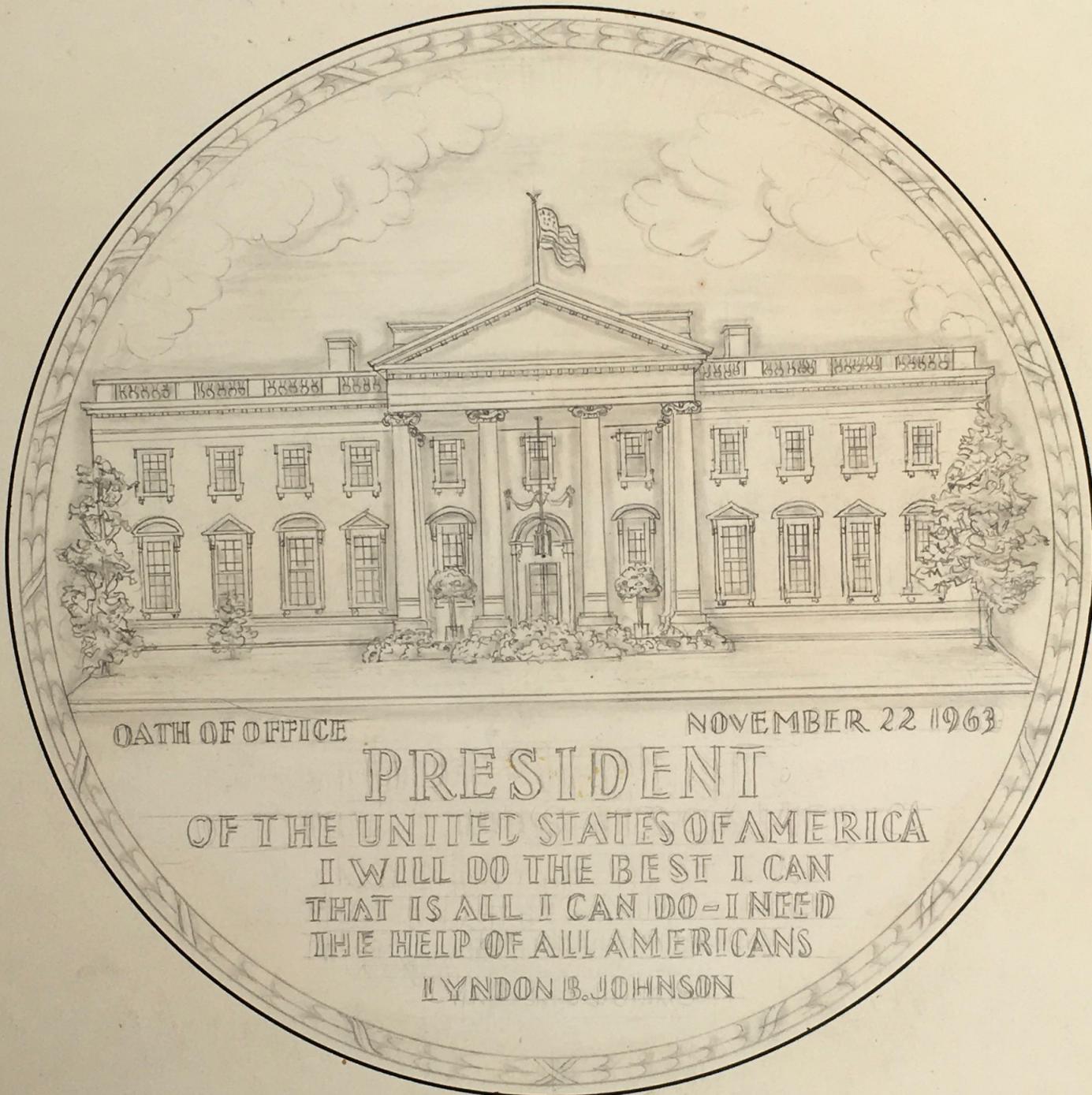
ADJUSTMENT _____

AUDITED _____

| NUMBER | QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION | PRICE | AMOUNT |
|--------|----------|-------------|-------|--------|
| | | | | |



#2 REVERSE



JOHN PAUL JONES



LIBERTY

